Resolution 32/1

Taking action against trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and human rights, physical integrity and sustainable development,


Guided by the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, and recalling the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,

Recalling also the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Recalling further the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which reaffirms the commitment by Member States to take immediate and effective measures to, inter alia, eradicate forced labour and end modern slavery and trafficking in persons, as well as to promote public procurement practices that are sustainable, in accordance with national policies and priorities,

Recalling the importance of Sustainable Development Goal 17 for promoting, as appropriate, multi-stakeholder partnerships, including effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, as an important vehicle for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources in the fight against trafficking in persons,

Welcoming the commitments by Member States to take effective measures to eradicat[e] all forms of trafficking in persons,

Bearing in mind the obligations of Member States to exercise due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons, to investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so may violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Recognizing that trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services has been identified as a serious problem and a challenge that

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46 Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
48 General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
49 Ibid.
50 General Assembly resolution 70/1.
51 The term “survivor” or “survivors” is not defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, but in some Member States it is used to acknowledge that victims of trafficking in persons can recover or have recovered from the trauma that they have endured.
needs to be addressed in various economic sectors, including those integrated into global markets,

Being aware that trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation increasingly takes place at the lowest tiers of business operations and supply chains as a result of complex and frequently outsourced recruitment and hiring practices,

Recognizing the need to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, and to raise awareness of the harmful consequences of using goods and services derived from victims of forced labour and other forms of exploitation,

Recognizing also the vulnerability of children to trafficking for labour exploitation and the special needs of child victims, and that persons with irregular immigration status and persons affected by conflict and fleeing conflict are at great risk of being subjected to trafficking for labour exploitation,

Concerned that criminals are increasingly exploiting new and emerging technologies, including the Internet, to carry out their illicit activities, such as for the purpose of recruiting for forced labour, while acknowledging the role that technology can play in reducing the risk of such exploitation, in particular the use of technology by businesses for the purpose of tracking the production of goods and services from their source to the final destination, and stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard,

Commending Member States that require business contractors supplying goods and services to governments to take effective and appropriate steps to address the risks of trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, including steps aimed at preventing subcontractors and employees from participating in activities known to lead to trafficking,

Commending also those Member States that encourage or require private sector businesses to consider the risks of trafficking in persons in their own operations and in those of their subcontractors and suppliers, aiming to ensure that they address risks proactively,

Welcoming the growing number of businesses that embrace a core business model that takes account of the impacts of their activities and that have adopted, and operate in accordance with, the 10 principles of the United Nations Global Compact, aimed at promoting responsible business practices,

Affirming the importance of United Nations bodies continuing to implement the United Nations Supplier Code of Conduct of the Procurement Division of the Secretariat, in particular article 5, pursuant to which it is expected that all United Nations suppliers prohibit forced or compulsory labour in all its forms,

Noting the activities by the United Nations system organizations to enhance transparency in their procurement and supply chains and step up their efforts to strengthen protections against trafficking in persons in all United Nations procurement and to that effect request major suppliers to establish and implement anti-human trafficking policies and disclose information on measures taken to counter trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains,

Taking note in this regard of the activities of the Procurement Network of the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations, in particular the launch in March 2019 of the Task Force for the Development of a Joint Approach to Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in Supply Chains,

Welcoming the activities of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labour Task Force, in particular its efforts to develop the policy framework on combating human
trafficking and forced labour in United Nations supply chains, which is based on the best practices outlined in normative frameworks and government guidelines, as well as on the activities of several international organizations, and was adopted by the High-level Committee on Management at its forty-fourth session, in October 2022.

Welcoming also the joint programme initiated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration to develop a common framework and standards for measuring trafficking in persons for forced labour, discussed among experts in Vienna in November 2016 and reflected in the “Guidelines concerning the measurement of forced labour” adopted at the twentieth International Conference of Labour Statisticians, in October 2018,

Noting with appreciation the work of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons to provide a platform for the exchange of information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities, aimed at ensuring full and comprehensive implementation of all international instruments and standards of relevance for the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons and protection and support for victims of trafficking in persons and working towards a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to trafficking in persons,

Taking note with appreciation of the thematic focus of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in recent years on measures to prevent trafficking in persons in public procurement and in the procurement of goods and services by United Nations agencies and other relevant international and regional organizations,

Noting with appreciation the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, and taking note of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons,

1. Urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

2. Invites Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) and its Protocol of 2014, of the International Labour Organization;

3. Calls upon Member States, including those that are countries of origin, transit or destination, to intensify their efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters trafficking in persons for all forms of exploitation, including forced labour, and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons, and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

4. Encourages Member States to ensure that the promotion and protection of the human rights of victims of trafficking in persons, the prevention of trafficking in persons by addressing the social, economic, cultural, political and other contributing factors and the strengthening of the criminal justice response are at the centre of all efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to protect, assist and provide redress to victims;

5. Calls upon Member States to assess the root causes of trafficking in persons, utilizing a gender-responsive, victim-centred and trauma-informed human
rights-based approach that helps to evaluate the influence of all factors, including socioeconomic inequalities, and the effectiveness and impact of policies, programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and combating organized crime, in order to subsequently adopt national policies and measures that can address those causes and respond more effectively to combating trafficking in persons;

6. **Urge**s Member States to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services, in accordance with their obligations under international and national law, and to this end to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories and jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

7. **Also urge**s Member States to develop policies and undertake actions to assist and protect victims of trafficking in persons, in particular victims of gender-based violence, in their national strategies that deal with trafficking in persons in business operations, public procurement and supply chains for goods and services;

8. **Encourage** Member States to provide specialized training and capacity-building to law enforcement, criminal justice practitioners and labour inspection officials on preventing trafficking in persons, identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services and acting upon suspected or confirmed illegal practices;

9. **Invite** Member States to promote cooperation and coordination among governmental institutions, civil society and the private sector, including the media, as well as workers’ and employers’ organizations, to foster prevention and awareness-raising campaigns and to prevent trafficking in persons in supply chains from becoming common practice;

10. **Also invite** Member States to implement the recommendations on measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels adopted at the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons established by the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention, in October 2021;²²

11. **Encourage** Member States to develop relevant tools and provide gender-responsive and age-sensitive training to relevant stakeholders, including labour inspectors and law enforcement authorities, in partnership with the private sector, as appropriate, in order to build their capacity to respond to specific risks associated with trafficking in persons in supply chains and strengthen compliance with existing national regulations;

12. **Also encourage** Member States to cooperate with trade unions to establish and monitor prevention plans to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons in public as well as private sector procurement activities;

13. **Further encourage** Member States to seek to address trafficking in persons in global supply chains, including by developing common public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct and by harmonizing frameworks, including those guiding anti-trafficking efforts and sustainable procurement;

14. **Encourage** Member States to cooperate with relevant business enterprises with a view to identifying and addressing trafficking-related risks at all levels in their operations and supply chains for goods and services, including through, where appropriate in accordance with domestic and international law and taking into account

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²² CTTO/COP/WG.4/2021/6, sect. II.B.
best practices or other promising measures developed in response to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, awareness-raising initiatives, increased transparency and due diligence in recruitment practices, ethical codes of conduct, grievance mechanisms, risk assessment, product certification and labelling, monitoring, auditing, verification, evaluation, victim protection and support and relevant company-wide strategies, policies and measures, while involving in those efforts, as appropriate, workers’ and employers’ organizations;

15. **Invites** Member States to encourage business enterprises to contribute to the fight against trafficking in persons, including by conducting awareness-raising, training and other relevant measures aimed at preventing trafficking in persons in supply chains;

16. **Welcomes** the humanitarian, legal and financial support provided by Member States, private sector organizations and individual donors through the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and encourages Member States and companies to make further contributions to the fund;

17. **Encourages** Member States to conduct awareness-raising campaigns about trafficking in persons, and in this regard invites Member States to join or support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking;

18. **Reaffirms** that trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, especially women and girls, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, or civilization;

19. **Encourages** Member States, when considering the awarding of government procurement contracts for goods and services, to be guided by relevant due diligence practices that assess whether business enterprises take appropriate and effective steps to address the risks of trafficking in persons in their operations and throughout their supply chains for goods and services;

20. **Invites** Member States to share best practices for successful national, regional and international partnerships between the public and private sectors in combating trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services and in promoting evidence-based corporate social responsibility, and to strengthen international cooperation between all relevant actors in the prevention of labour exploitation;

21. **Encourages** Member States to share information on criminal activities, threats, emerging trends and modi operandi pertaining to trafficking in persons for labour exploitation and to make effective use of the experience and tools of the International Criminal Police Organization in combating trafficking in persons, in particular its databases and notices;

22. **Also encourages** Member States to consider cooperating with civil society organizations in preventing and combating trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services through activities such as awareness-raising campaigns, programmes to facilitate the identification of victims of trafficking and the provision of assistance to those victims;

23. **Calls upon** Member States to strengthen cooperation with international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, for the provision of remedies to victims of trafficking in persons identified in business operations and supply chains for goods and services, including through the provision of protective services and access to justice;

24. **Encourages** Member States to consider implementing measures that may provide direct assistance to victims of trafficking in persons and related crimes in
business operations and supply chains for goods and services, to help with their social recovery and provide compensation or restitution for the damage suffered;

25. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to engage in dialogue with members of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and other relevant international organizations, in close consultation with Member States, so as to enable the Office to improve the collection and analysis of data on instances of trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services;

26. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in collaboration with other relevant organizations, to continue providing, within its existing mandate, technical assistance and training to Member States, at their request, in order to assist them in strengthening national capacities to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons in business operations and supply chains for goods and services;

27. *Urges* the organizations of the United Nations system to ensure that their activities, including procurement contracts for goods and services, do not contribute to any form of trafficking in persons and to request their suppliers to establish and implement counter-trafficking policies and disclose information on measures taken to counter trafficking in persons in their operations and supply chains for goods and services;

28. *Calls upon* the entities of the United Nations system to integrate the components of the policy framework on combating human trafficking and forced labour in United Nations supply chains into their procurement practices;

29. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for the purposes of the present resolution, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

30. *Invites* the Secretary-General to include information on the implementation of the present resolution within the existing reporting obligations to the General Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice.

**Decision 32/1**

**Report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute**

4. At its 7th meeting, on 24 May 2023, the Commission decided to transmit to the Economic and Social Council the report of United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (*E/CN.15/2023/8*), which had been prepared pursuant to article IV, paragraph 3 (c), of the statute of the Institute and approved by a decision of the Board of Trustees taken at its online meeting held on 19 and 20 October 2022.