Background
In January 2016, the European Union (EU) and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the *Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants* (2015-2019). A four-year joint initiative between the EU and UNODC, the programme will be implemented in partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) through to July 2019.

The programme aims to assist countries to develop and implement effective responses to trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. UNODC, together with IOM and UNICEF, will focus efforts on assistance to governmental authorities, civil society organizations, victims of trafficking and smuggled migrants. The programme is expected to be delivered across Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America in 13 countries, namely: Belarus, Brazil, Colombia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, South Africa and Ukraine.

Objective
The objective of the 2-day Expert Group Meeting is to assist UNODC Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section in the development of an assessment framework and methodology for the 13 countries to cover the areas of project focus: strategy and policy development, legislative assistance, criminal justice capacity building, regional and trans-regional cooperation and assistance to victims, including special protection measures for children. The framework and methodology will inform in-country assessments to provide a baseline against which to set project priorities and measure progress.

Participants
The Expert Group Meeting will be made up of **30 experts** who possess both **technical**¹ and **professional**² skills in addressing Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants issues. Experts will include but not limited to professionals who are knowledgeable about the state of play and current debate on trafficking and smuggling in the region and countries within the project, possess an in-depth knowledge of **criminal justice**, **human rights** issues, **children’s rights**, **gender** issues, skills in developing and delivering **technical assistance** projects, as well as in designing and implementing **monitoring and evaluation** frameworks. Examples of experts expected: Practitioners, academicians, criminal justice professionals, monitoring and evaluation experts, human rights experts, providers of services to vulnerable groups, representatives of civil society organizations.

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¹ Subject matter experts
² Possess skills in assessments, capacity development, educating and training