

## Decision 4/4

### Trafficking in human beings

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>1</sup> recalling also its decision 3/3 and General Assembly resolutions 61/144 of 19 December 2006 and 61/180 of 20 December 2006, having considered the report and notes by the Secretariat concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings<sup>2</sup> and taking into account the thematic debate held in the Assembly in June 2008:

(a) Welcomed the results of the consultations of Government experts held during its fourth session;

(b) Recalled the Organized Crime Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,<sup>3</sup> and other relevant international instruments;

(c) Underlined the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the problem of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms;

(d) Acknowledged that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol was the principal legally binding global instrument to combat trafficking in persons;

(e) Affirmed that a primary purpose of the Conference was to improve the capacity of States parties to combat trafficking in persons and that the Conference should spearhead international efforts in that regard;

(f) Urged States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and, in particular, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(g) Called upon States parties to continue to strengthen their national legislations and policies for the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(h) Encouraged Member States to continue to strengthen their national policies and their cooperation with the United Nations system to combat human trafficking;

(i) Invited States to take measures to discourage the demand that fostered all forms of exploitation consistent with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

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<sup>1</sup> Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

<sup>2</sup> CTOC/COP/2008/8, CTOC/COP/2008/9 and CTOC/COP/2008/11.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

(j) Invited Member States to take measures to alleviate the factors that made persons vulnerable to trafficking, consistent with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(k) Urged States parties to take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to cooperate in investigations of trafficking in persons;

(l) Requested States parties to develop, if necessary, tools to improve cooperation between law enforcement agencies, inter alia, in the areas of data collection and communications;

(m) Requested the Secretariat to make available to Member States information on successful practices and measures in relation to victim support, witness protection and the facilitation of the participation of victims in the criminal justice system;

(n) Decided to establish an open-ended interim working group, in accordance with article 32, paragraph 3, of the Organized Crime Convention, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, to be chaired by a member of the Bureau, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(o) Decided also that the working group should perform the following functions:

(i) Facilitate implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices between experts and practitioners in this area, including by contributing to the identification of weaknesses, gaps and challenges;

(ii) Make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(iii) Assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(iv) Make recommendations to the Conference on how it can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating trafficking in persons with respect to implementing, supporting and promoting the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(p) Decided further that the working group should meet during the fifth session of the Conference and should hold at least one intersessional meeting before that session;

(q) Requested the Secretariat to inform the working group on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including on its coordinating role for the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and on coordination carried out with the secretariats of relevant international and regional organizations to promote and support implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

(r) Also requested the Secretariat to assist the working group in the performance of its functions;

(s) Decided that the chairman of the working group should submit a report on the activities of the working group to the Conference;

(t) Decided to review and take a decision on the effectiveness and future of the working group at its sixth session, in 2012.