



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Report on the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna from 9 to 11 September 2019

I. Introduction

1. In its decision 4/4, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime acknowledged that the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, was the principal legally binding global instrument to combat trafficking in persons. In that decision, the Conference also decided to establish an open-ended interim working group on trafficking in persons. The previous meetings of the Working Group were held on 14 and 15 April 2009, from 27 to 29 January 2010, on 19 October 2010, from 10 to 12 October 2011, from 6 to 8 November 2013, from 16 to 18 November 2015, from 6 to 8 September 2017 and on 2 and 3 July 2018.

2. In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference of the Parties decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons would be a constant element of the Conference of the Parties, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the working groups of the Conference to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed, and to hold their meetings consecutively, in order to ensure the effective use of resources.

II. Recommendations

3. At its meeting held in Vienna from 9 to 11 September 2019, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons adopted the recommendations presented below.

A. General recommendations

4. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the recommendations set out below.

Recommendation 1

States parties should seek to effectively cooperate with victim assistance service providers and consider developing stronger witness protection measures, as part of a multidisciplinary strategy to counter trafficking in persons.



Recommendation 2

States parties should consider developing toolkits for the design and implementation of national coordination or referral mechanisms.

Recommendation 3

States parties should, in accordance with national legislation, on a voluntary basis, share best practices detailing the roles and responsibilities of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, such as community-based organizations and faith-based organizations, in referral mechanisms, to support policies, including by promoting a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach, bearing in mind the age and gender of victims of trafficking in persons or other vulnerable members of society.

Recommendation 4

States parties should consider ways to strengthen cooperation with relevant non-governmental or international organizations, including those which are service providers, to help build capacity to deliver trafficking in persons-related prevention measures, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.

Recommendation 5

States parties should consider developing and reviewing on a regular basis their national plans of action and legal frameworks on combating trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 6

States parties should carry out relevant research involving academic and other institutions on new trends in trafficking in persons, including voluntary, trauma-informed interviews with victims to develop or adjust prevention strategies.

Recommendation 7

States parties should consider consulting victims and survivors of trafficking in persons for both sexual and labour exploitation, members of at-risk groups, civil society, law enforcement, prosecutors and front-line service providers in identifying, developing and adapting strategies and initiatives to counter trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 8

States parties should, wherever possible, incorporate the input of survivors in the development of policies which seek to eradicate trafficking in persons and support survivors to ensure a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach.

Recommendation 9

States parties should consider developing or improving programmes to provide safe and secure shelter or other suitable accommodation for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, so that victims who have been rescued do not face a situation of homelessness or revictimization.

Recommendation 10

States parties are encouraged, consistent with domestic and international law, to establish joint investigation teams for specialized investigations and to respond to extradition and mutual legal assistance requests in an efficient way in responding to cases of trafficking in persons, including in relation to the proceeds of crime.

Recommendation 11

States parties should make every possible effort to improve the exchange of information, consistent with the obligations set out in article 10, paragraph 1, of the

Trafficking in Persons Protocol, on criminal networks engaging in trafficking in persons and on the methods used by transnational criminal groups to carry out these crimes.

Recommendation 12

States parties should integrate prevention measures, including “know your rights” information materials, education and awareness materials, into services for people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as children who have been abused or neglected and homeless individuals. States parties should also make efforts to reach out to their migrant populations, including guest workers, and to other individuals at higher risk of trafficking in persons so that they are aware of their rights and are thus less likely to be exploited.

Recommendation 13

States parties should develop awareness-raising campaigns focused on front-line responders, including social service providers, who are likely to identify victims of trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 14

States parties should strengthen the capacity of the media to understand and report on trafficking in persons as a standard practice, taking into account their significant influence on the population.

Recommendation 15

States parties should develop model strategies to support successful prosecution and should consider convening meetings to share experiences, practices and challenges in this regard.

Recommendation 16

States parties should provide training to security and military personnel, including those on peacekeeping missions, to enable them to respond effectively to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 17

The Working Group should address the following topics as priorities at its future meetings: (a) effective strategies to support victims and/or witnesses in the criminal justice system; (b) guidance on the issue of appropriate criminal justice responses to victims who have been compelled to commit offences as a result of their being trafficked; (c) common challenges associated with the investigation and/or prosecution of trafficking in persons offences; (d) best practices in the establishment and operation of joint investigation teams and specialized prosecution units; (e) successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons, and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons; (f) how the media can support the development, implementation and assessment of anti-trafficking responses; (g) measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels; and (h) including the private sector, civil society and victim input in responses to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 18

States parties should share experience in the development of internationally aligned policies, legislation and guidance to incentivize businesses to develop, implement and report on long-term strategies for assessing risks, identifying priority areas and delivering targeted due diligence to protect vulnerable workers.

B. Recommendations on crime prevention measures in trafficking in persons

5. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the recommendations set out below.

Recommendation 19

States parties should work in partnership with businesses, civil society and public sector organizations to develop policies and legislation that drive effective and targeted action to address the risks of forced labour in supply chains.

Recommendation 20

States parties should consider encouraging regional and international organizations to take measures to prevent and address trafficking in persons in their supply chains, such as reviewing their procurement practices, and to provide gender-inclusive and age-sensitive training to their relevant personnel, especially management, on trafficking in persons and its risks in the supply chains of regional and international organizations.

Recommendation 21

States parties are encouraged to consider the “Principles to guide government action to combat human trafficking in global supply chains”, which were developed by some States to raise awareness in order to improve public procurement policies, to deter fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and to harmonize policy frameworks in preventing trafficking in persons in their supply chains.

Recommendation 22

States parties should encourage businesses to engage in due diligence practices to prevent forced labour in global supply chains and to eliminate practices that put migrant workers at greater risk of forced labour, such as worker-paid recruitment fees.

Recommendation 23

States parties and international organizations should implement measures to prevent and address trafficking in persons in government procurement processes.

Recommendation 24

States parties should take measures to counter the criminal misuse of cybertechnologies in facilitating the exploitation of victims of trafficking in persons, while recognizing the potential of such technologies to prevent trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 25

States parties should comprehensively investigate, in accordance with domestic law, including through financial investigation, all individuals suspected of being involved in trafficking in persons, in particular those who benefit financially.

Recommendation 26

States parties should, to the extent possible, attempt to ensure the effective protection and security of potential victims of trafficking in persons.

C. Recommendations on diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing trafficking in persons

6. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the recommendations set out below.

Recommendation 27

States parties should consider creating oversight mechanisms, such as in-person registration programmes, within their ministries for foreign affairs, as appropriate, to prevent trafficking in persons or other abuses of domestic workers employed by foreign mission personnel and to inform the workers of how to seek help if needed.

Recommendation 28

States parties are encouraged to train relevant personnel before they serve overseas to familiarize them with all the forms of trafficking in persons that they may encounter, with a focus on preventing and addressing domestic servitude and ensuring the fair treatment of domestic workers. States parties are also encouraged to provide visa applicants with information, preferably in their native languages, about the different forms of trafficking in persons, their rights and the available assistance resources.

Recommendation 29

States parties should hold specific workshops, seminars or courses at the national, regional and international levels on the role of diplomatic and consular personnel in responding to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 30

States parties should build the capacity of diplomatic and consular staff to identify potential victims of trafficking in persons, taking into consideration international legal obligations.

Recommendation 31

States parties should, whenever possible, incorporate the input of victims and/or civil society organizations in the development of training materials for diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers on indicators of trafficking in persons in order to ensure a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach.

Recommendation 32

States parties should consider providing training on a regular basis to diplomatic and consular agents in relation to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 33

States parties should consider creating a mechanism for employees of diplomatic households according to which they are encouraged to appear in person, if possible, in the framework of a face-to-face interview, before the host State authorities, where they are informed of their rights and obligations and are told who to contact in case of any difficulties.

Recommendation 34

States parties should support domestic employees in learning to speak one of the official languages of the host State, or alternatively a language broadly understood in the host State, to enable them to communicate with authorities and to facilitate their social integration.

Recommendation 35

States parties are encouraged to require that the salary of a domestic worker employed by diplomatic or consular staff be paid into a bank account opened in the domestic worker's name.

Recommendation 36

States parties should strengthen the assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons through cooperation between the diplomatic and consular missions of different countries.

Recommendation 37

States parties should consider encouraging all relevant government entities to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular missions accredited in their host country, in accordance with their domestic law and international law, in order to provide optimal assistance and protection services for victims of trafficking in persons, facilitate processes, adapt to national realities and overcome any legal or administrative obstacles.

Recommendation 38

States parties should explore the possibility of signing bilateral cooperation agreements to ensure fluid and timely communication.

Recommendation 39

States parties may be encouraged to consider implementing, as appropriate and in compliance with their obligations, consular notification to protect the rights of foreign nationals to due process.

III. Summary of deliberations

7. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 9 September 2019, the Working Group considered agenda item 2, entitled "Crime prevention measures in trafficking in persons".

8. The discussion under agenda item 2 was facilitated by the following panellists: Phoebe Blagg, Senior Modern Slavery Policy Adviser, Modern Slavery Unit, Home Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States; Qingtian Meng, Deputy Director, Anti-Human Trafficking Office of the Criminal Investigation Department, Ministry of Public Security of China, on behalf of the Group of Asia-Pacific States; Ooshara Sewpaul, Deputy Chief State Law Adviser, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of African States; and Rafaella Mikos Passos, Federal Public Defender at the Federal Public Defender's Office of Brazil, on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States.

9. Ms. Blagg delivered a presentation on the experience of the United Kingdom in combating trafficking in persons in supply chains. She stated that, under the Modern Slavery Act, large commercial organizations operating in the United Kingdom were required to report on how they were tackling modern slavery and forced labour in their operations and supply chains. Ms. Blagg stressed that the measure had led to increased business awareness, investment in due diligence activities and more scrutiny from civil society and the public. She added that the Government would publish its own statement in 2019 on measures taken to address trafficking in persons in procurement. Ms. Blagg highlighted the need for international cooperation and also highlighted the "Principles to guide government action in combating human trafficking in global supply chains", which had been jointly developed by Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. In the Principles, Governments are called upon to harness the power of government

spending, to strive for the harmonization of policy and legislation, to advance responsible recruitment policies and practices and to encourage the private sector to address trafficking in persons in supply chains. Lastly, she emphasized the need to measure action and impact, as well as to review and adapt approaches, over time.

10. Ms. Mikos Passos spoke about the efforts of Brazil to combat trafficking in persons and, in particular, the specific role of the Federal Public Defender's Office in those efforts. She then presented achievements in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the country's partnership in the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons, such as successfully training public officials and releasing publications and guides on the rights of victims. She noted with concern, however, that the Federal Public Defender's Office faced several challenges, such as the stigma linked to victimization, a lack of quantitative and qualitative data, the need for better cooperation between private and public service providers, as well as the need for a network of caregivers to better support victims.

11. Ms. Meng spoke about the efforts of China in relation to its national plan of action 2013–2020 to fight trafficking in persons. She provided details on the establishment by the Ministry of Public Security of a dedicated office to combat the trafficking of women and children. In 2009, the Ministry had set up a DNA database and a facial recognition system to identify victims of trafficking in persons and missing children. In partnership with the Alibaba Group, the Ministry had also developed an alert platform, which was being used by 6,000 special police officers who could log in and gain access to apps and platforms to alert the public about missing children. A total of 3,901 children had been located successfully using the platform. Lastly, Ms. Meng stressed that the mobilization of society was the best weapon to combat trafficking in persons.

12. Ms. Sewpaul delivered a presentation on the efforts of South Africa to combat trafficking in persons. In cooperation with UNODC, the country had aligned its legal framework to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. She stressed the lack of data collection and public awareness and mentioned that the partnership between South Africa and UNODC had resulted in progress in fighting that crime. She then described the concept of "litigation surgeries", which allowed prosecutors to share their experiences on evidential issues in cases involving trafficking in persons. Such activities had been organized in cooperation with UNODC and had proved highly successful. She then highlighted the success of Operation Batho, supported by UNODC, which brought together intelligence operatives and investigators from southern African countries to identify trafficking routes. She stressed that the new national policy framework on trafficking in persons, recently developed under the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons, allowed for the clarification of roles and procedures to combat trafficking in persons. She added that, thanks to efforts to increase data collection, the Government was better positioned to detect victims. She concluded by stating that education and awareness-raising were necessary to combat trafficking in persons and that South Africa was considering joining the Blue Heart Campaign.

13. After those presentations, the panellists exchanged additional information with the participants in response to several questions and comments on specific challenges and examples of good practices.

14. In the discussions that followed, many speakers emphasized the importance of multidisciplinary approaches to preventing the crime of trafficking in persons, which could contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Speakers stressed that such approaches should include partnerships with civil society, including in broad public consultations.

15. Many speakers highlighted the challenge of measuring the scale of the crime of trafficking in persons and the impact of awareness-raising measures. At the same time, several speakers noted national efforts to improve data collection, as well as evidence-based policies and responses to trafficking in persons.

16. Several speakers noted that their Governments had decided to join the Blue Heart Campaign to further their awareness-raising efforts.
17. Many speakers addressed the need to tackle the root causes of trafficking in persons, as well as the linkages between trafficking, conflict situations and migration. Some speakers also noted the need to distinguish trafficking in persons from other crimes in national legislation.
18. Several speakers highlighted the value they attached to the technical assistance provided by UNODC, noting the resulting achievements in national legislation and policy and in the investigation and detection of trafficking in persons cases.
19. One speaker mentioned the importance of a trauma-informed culture and a gender-sensitive approach to providing services for victims of trafficking in persons.
20. One speaker described the good practice of providing financial compensation for work inside shelters to victims of trafficking in persons who were not willing or were unable to work outside the shelters.
21. One speaker noted the essential role of independent media in preventing trafficking in persons, as well as the need for specialized journalists to that end.
22. Several speakers stressed the interaction between anti-trafficking efforts and technology, noting good practices that draw on the benefits of technology, such as mobile applications, in combating trafficking in persons. One speaker also noted legislative measures to combat the crime online.
23. Several speakers highlighted the value of targeted awareness-raising campaigns, while also noting the importance of increasing trust between the State and community groups to increase the number of referrals of victims of trafficking in persons. The value of partnerships with civil society organizations, including in prevention campaigns, was also noted.
24. Several speakers highlighted the importance of the voices of survivors, noting the value of listening to and engaging with victims of trafficking in persons.
25. Another speaker highlighted the value of joint investigation groups and compliance with mutual legal assistance requests in responding to trafficking in persons.
26. Speakers also highlighted the value of bilateral collaboration, with two speakers citing the secondment of liaison magistrates and officers from one country to the prosecution services of others as examples of promising practices.
27. With regard to the prevention of re-trafficking, the need for coordinated action was stressed, as was the need to provide assistance to victims upon their return to their communities, including humanitarian assistance. One speaker noted the value of inter-institutional cooperation to that end.
28. Measures to enable victims who are foreign nationals to remain in the territory of a State, as well as to gain access to services and seek compensation and residence visas, were also mentioned by several speakers.
29. Many speakers referred to the importance of engaging in capacity-building and technical cooperation efforts with a range of actors. The need to train those responsible for passing on information was noted, as was the need to train immigration officials, community leaders (such as teachers and doctors) and the media, with several speakers welcoming the role of UNODC in delivering such training.
30. The use of social media to recruit victims, as well as the need to harness it to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, was also highlighted.
31. One speaker noted the value of building the capacity of the judiciary, while another referred to the training of labour inspectors and related personnel and the need to improve legislation to enable those responsible for labour law enforcement to do

more when they come across possible breaches of labour law. The need to build the capacity of the hospitality industry to detect victims of trafficking in persons was also mentioned.

32. Several speakers highlighted the importance of supply chain transparency as an opportunity for, rather than a threat to, commercial enterprise, as well as the importance of engagement with the private sector on that topic. The need to incentivize businesses to promote their brands as free from trafficking in persons was also noted, as was the value of regional processes in enhancing collaboration.

33. Several speakers highlighted contextual and structural vulnerabilities relating to trafficking in persons, including the vulnerability of migrant workers to exploitation and that of women and girls, who continued to represent the vast majority of identified victims and, in particular, continued to be trafficked for sexual exploitation. In that vein, one speaker noted the critical need to ensure that all forms of exploitation were addressed equally. Another noted the value of countering trafficking in persons for forced labour, including the need to monitor compliance with labour legislation, while several speakers mentioned efforts to counter trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal. Several speakers noted the need to take measures to criminalize the use of services provided by a victim of trafficking in persons with knowledge that the person is a victim.

34. Many speakers noted the continued low level of convictions for trafficking in persons, highlighting the need to ensure efforts directed at countering impunity. One speaker noted the central role of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and welcomed the role of UNODC as its guardian.

35. At its 2nd, 3rd and 4th meetings, the Working Group considered agenda item 3, entitled “Diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing trafficking in persons”.

36. A general introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat under agenda item 3. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under agenda item 3 was led by the following panellists: Chenobia Calhoun, Acting Assistant Chief of Protocol for Diplomatic Affairs, United States Department of State, on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States; and Jesús Alberto Marquez Navarro, Police Attaché, Permanent Mission of Spain to the United Nations (Vienna), on behalf of the Group of Western European and other States.

37. Mr. Marquez Navarro presented the Spanish national action plan on trafficking in persons, which had been released in two phases. He noted that immediate assistance for victims could be accessed through a hotline, email address and/or Twitter account, and he showed an awareness-raising video that had been disseminated in the Spanish media. He stressed the achievements made possible by international and bilateral cooperation in joint operations, such as those carried out with Austria and Morocco, enabling the rescue of victims and apprehension of perpetrators. He noted that investigations could only be effective if they were regular, prompt, adequately resourced, supported by confidence in dedicated local investigation units (accessible 24 hours per day) and guided by long-term approaches. He noted coordination with non-governmental organizations as essential, as they supported victims and could also help to identify criminal networks. He also noted that social networks and websites could be used to investigate trafficking in persons cases. He also noted that money-laundering was prevalent and a focus should be placed on financial investigations and the development of expertise in forensic accounting. The establishment of an international community to bring together victim support efforts was important. Liaison officers were also important in the context of cooperation, especially in connection with networks, such as the Ibero-American Network of Specialized Prosecutors against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, supported by UNODC. Cooperation in that regard could be carried out bilaterally and internationally. He concluded by stating that capacity-building for officers responsible for trafficking in persons cases should be strengthened.

38. Ms. Calhoun discussed the efforts of the United States to prevent domestic servitude in diplomatic households, including through the strengthening of policies at the national and international levels. For example, she noted that the United States had provided financial and technical support for the development of the handbook entitled *How to Prevent Human Trafficking for Domestic Servitude in Diplomatic Households and Protect Private Domestic Workers*, published by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in 2014. She added that the United States had benefited considerably from the technical expertise contributed to the Working Group and its discussions on that issue. Her presentation highlighted some best practices that had been developed to address the issue, including the role of consular officers and how they could help to prevent trafficking in persons. She stressed the importance of establishing oversight mechanisms and the need to develop standard employment contracts to provide clear information on rights, salaries, roles and responsibilities. She further stressed the need for all personnel to receive training, before serving overseas, on trafficking in persons, with a focus on preventing and addressing domestic servitude and promoting the fair treatment of workers.

39. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2019, the Working Group resumed the panel presentations under agenda item 3.

40. Ms. Meng presented efforts by the Ministry of Public Security of China to set up hotline mechanisms in collaboration with multiple States, creating a strong cooperation network. The Ministry had deployed 69 police liaison officers in 41 countries, contributing to building bridges between States to combat trafficking in persons. Joint operations to fight transnational organized crime had also been conducted through cooperation agreements with Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar, with joint operations carried out between six countries, during which liaison officers had served as key links in intelligence-sharing and repatriation efforts. As a result, 634 cases of trafficking in persons had been uncovered and 153 foreign nationals rescued. Police and border liaison officers had supported the rescue of victims and information-sharing between China and bordering countries. Ms. Meng explained how, since 2014, border liaison officers had repatriated 1,193 people. She went on to describe several individual cases to illustrate the success of those joint operations. A working group for joint investigation had been set up at the Embassy of China in Viet Nam to investigate specific cases. She concluded by reiterating that the liaison officers had proved to be an efficient bridge in combating trafficking in persons and a platform for the exchange of information.

41. In the discussion under agenda item 3 that followed, many speakers outlined the need to protect the safety and human rights of nationals abroad, in particular those who are vulnerable. Diplomatic and consular personnel could play an essential role in detecting and fighting trafficking in persons in that regard. A large number of speakers stressed the importance of training consular and diplomatic personnel on all forms of trafficking in persons, the context in which it occurred, as well as warning signs, indicators and victim assistance measures. Some speakers highlighted the need for a victim-centred and human rights-based approach to such training. Training could allow diplomatic and consular officials to react swiftly when a trafficking in persons case involving a citizen was detected abroad. Some speakers mentioned that diplomats received online training as well as booklets before the start of their assignments. One speaker emphasized the importance of observing the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and other relevant international agreements when diplomatic and consular officials deal with trafficking in persons issues.

42. Some speakers mentioned the particular vulnerability of domestic workers in diplomatic households, who were often isolated. In addition, the privileges and immunities of diplomatic employers could increase the vulnerability of such workers to trafficking in persons. In that regard, several speakers described measures taken to increase the protection afforded to domestic workers in diplomatic households, such as in-person interviews at consulates during which their rights were explained before

the start of the assignment. Such interviews could be repeated once a year to assess the situation, for example in the context of visa renewal procedures.

43. Several speakers mentioned the importance of hotlines and other lines of communication for domestic workers in diplomatic households. In addition, the distribution of pamphlets and information brochures in many languages in consulates as well as awareness-raising films, television commercials and cartoons were described as good practices by some speakers.

44. Some speakers described legislative measures adopted to improve the working conditions of domestic workers, such as minimum salaries and regulated working hours. Some speakers also highlighted as a good practice that a domestic worker should receive salary payments directly to a bank account opened in the domestic worker's name.

45. Two speakers mentioned the establishment of dedicated offices as a best practice for mediation in cases of alleged abuse and related issues.

46. One speaker mentioned that trafficking in persons might occur in the context of international surrogacy, recruitment of foreign workers, volunteer programmes and student exchange programmes, adding that training for consular and diplomatic personnel should also cover those fields.

47. Many speakers mentioned that cooperation with international organizations, such as UNODC, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund and the International Organization for Migration could help countries in addressing trafficking in persons.

48. The OSCE handbook on preventing trafficking in persons for domestic servitude in diplomatic households, as well as the *Handbook for Diplomatic and Consular Personnel on How to Assist and Protect Victims of Human Trafficking*, published by the Council of the Baltic Sea States in 2011, were mentioned as examples of tools to be used for guidance.

49. Under agenda item 4, the Chair referred delegations to the index of recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its first eight meetings and the compilation of those recommendations. One speaker thanked the Secretariat for the documents, noting their immediate value to delegations.

50. In reflecting on the Working Group's discussions under agenda items 1 to 3, the Chair highlighted that the importance of collaboration had been a constant theme throughout the deliberations and that working together remained foundational to any successful response to trafficking in persons. The Chair noted that such collaboration could take many forms, including between different groups within the same organization, as in the case of financial crime investigators cooperating closely with investigators specialized in trafficking in persons; through specialized teams of police and prosecutors; between ministries or agencies, as was frequently seen in national anti-trafficking committees; between different Governments; and between Governments and civil society or the private sector.

51. The Chair welcomed the strong consensus among delegations on key promising practices and areas of work that should be pursued by the Working Group to effectively respond to trafficking in persons.

52. The Working Group discussed possibilities for thematic work in its future meetings and formulated a related recommendation to capture them.

IV. Organization of the meeting

A. Opening of the meeting

53. The ninth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons was held in Vienna from 9 to 11 September 2019. Five meetings were held.

54. The meeting was opened by Nazhat Shameem Khan (Fiji), Chair of the Working Group. She addressed the meeting and presented an overview of the mandate of the Working Group, its objectives and the subjects under its consideration.

55. At the opening of the meeting, a statement was made by the Secretariat.

B. Statements

56. General introductory statements were made by the Secretariat under agenda items 2 and 3.

57. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under agenda item 2 was led by the following panellists: Ms. Blagg (United Kingdom), Ms. Mikos Passos (Brazil), Ms. Meng (China) and Ms. Sewpaul (South Africa).

58. With the Chair presiding, the discussion under agenda item 3 was led by the following panellists: Ms. Calhoun (United States), Mr. Marquez Navarro (Spain) and Ms. Meng (China).

59. Under agenda items 2 and 3, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Algeria, Australia, Bahrain, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Egypt, European Union, France, Gambia, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

60. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

61. Under agenda item 4, statements were made by representatives of the following States parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Algeria, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sudan and Thailand.

C. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

62. At its 1st meeting, on 9 September 2019, the Working Group adopted by consensus the following agenda:

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Crime prevention measures in trafficking in persons.
3. Diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing trafficking in persons.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

D. Attendance

63. The following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol were represented at the meeting: Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, European Union, Fiji, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya,

Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, Morocco, Myanmar, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

64. The following States that are not parties or signatories to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol were represented by observers: Brunei Darussalam, Holy See, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nepal, Pakistan and Yemen.

65. The Sovereign Order of Malta, an entity maintaining a permanent observer office, was represented by an observer.

66. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented by observers: Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, European Border and Coast Guard Agency, International Organization for Migration, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and OSCE.

67. A list of participants is contained in document [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/INF/1/Rev.1](#).

E. Documentation

68. The Working Group had before it the following:

(a) Annotated provisional agenda ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/1](#) and [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/1/Corr.1](#));

(b) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Crime prevention measures in trafficking in persons” ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/2](#));

(c) Background paper prepared by the Secretariat entitled “Diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing human trafficking” ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/3](#));

(d) Background paper containing an index of recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its first eight meetings ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/4](#));

(e) Background paper containing a compilation of the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its first eight meetings ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/5](#)).

V. Adoption of the report

69. On 11 September 2019, the Working Group adopted the report on its meeting ([CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/L.1](#), [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/L.1/Add.1](#), [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/L.1/Add.2](#) and [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/L.1/Add.3](#)), as orally amended.