



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

Distr.: Limited
4 October 2022

Original: English

Eleventh session

Vienna, 17–21 October 2022

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
and the Protocols thereto: Protocol to Prevent,
Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,
Especially Women and Children**

Colombia: draft resolution

Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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

Reaffirming that the United Nations Convention against Transnational
Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹ are the main legal instruments existing at
the global level to prevent and combat the scourge of transnational organized crime,

Recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the Organized Crime
Convention,² pursuant to which the Conference was established to improve the
capacity of States parties to promote and review the implementation of the
Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in
Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention,³

Bearing in mind that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which enjoys near-
universal ratification, with 179 parties at present, includes the first internationally
agreed definition of trafficking in persons, and provides a comprehensive framework
to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, protect and assist the victims and
promote cooperation,

Reaffirming all its previous resolutions and decisions related to
the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,

Recalling all previous General Assembly resolutions related to trafficking in
persons, including resolution [76/7](#) of 22 November 2021, entitled “2021 Political
Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to

* [CTOC/COP/2022/1](#).

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.



Combat Trafficking in Persons”, and resolution [76/186](#) of 16 December 2021, entitled “Measures to improve the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”,

Recalling also the adoption by the General Assembly of resolution [70/1](#) of 25 September 2015, containing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including its goals and targets relevant to trafficking in persons,

Recalling further Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 26/3 of 26 May 2017 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime,

Taking note of the report of the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,⁴

Welcoming the report on the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, held in Vienna on 29 and 30 June 2022,⁵

Recalling the recommendations of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, in which, inter alia, the need for support for victims of trafficking in persons that takes into account different factors, including age, gender, culture, disability and special needs, was highlighted, and in which States were encouraged to consider providing, in accordance with their domestic law, that victims of trafficking in persons are not to be inappropriately punished or prosecuted for acts that traffickers compelled them to commit or that they committed as a direct consequence of being trafficked,

Taking note of the inputs and suggestions made during the constructive dialogue held after the conclusion of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons regarding the importance of integrating a victim-centred and human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons, the importance of addressing its psychological impact on victims, and the potential of involving civil society in preventing and combating this crime,

Recognizing the role and mandates of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in preventing and countering trafficking in persons, including in the light of the progress made towards the implementation of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,

Acknowledging with appreciation the central role and work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its tireless efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, its development of tools, issue papers and training materials, its *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* and the impact of the *Global Report* on improving the global understanding of the nature, scope and impact of trafficking in persons, its coordination support to the Secretary-General, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and its Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking, aimed at fostering greater public awareness of trafficking in persons,

Recalling the agreed conclusions of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,⁶ on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes, in which the Commission urged Governments, United Nations entities and other stakeholders to take specific actions against trafficking in persons, especially women,

⁴ [CTOC/COP/2022/2](#).

⁵ [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2022/4](#).

⁶ [E/CN.6/2022/L.7](#).

Taking note of the report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,⁷ in which the Special Rapporteur highlighted the obligation of due diligence to prevent trafficking in persons and restated the requirement that States take action to address the wider, more systemic processes or root causes that contribute to trafficking in persons,

Convinced of the importance of the implementation of article 30 of the Organized Crime Convention, in which the need for international cooperation, taking into account the adverse effects of organized crime on society in general and on sustainable development in particular, is highlighted,

Considering that the majority of victims of trafficking in persons are women and girls, and recalling the purpose of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the obligation in article 2 of the Protocol to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children,

Recalling the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2020*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which, inter alia, highlighted the worsening vulnerabilities resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the increase in the number of girls and boys who fall victim to the crime, and noted that trafficking in persons continues to affect mainly women and girls, who account for 65 per cent of identified victims globally, and that sexual exploitation remains the main exploitative purpose of trafficking in the world, followed by forced labour,

Considering the importance of adopting effective measures, policies and programmes to prevent and combat crime, and especially to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable groups,

Recognizing the need to build trust in criminal justice institutions and responses among victims of trafficking in persons and the need to improve efforts to hold accountable those responsible for the crime, while providing victims with effective and safe means of participation in investigations and criminal proceedings,

Concerned about the potential impact of corruption on the effectiveness of the fight against human trafficking,

Concerned also about the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by traffickers in persons, operating simultaneously and anonymously in different locations, to recruit, control and exploit victims, in particular women and children, and to transfer funds associated with the crime,

Recognizing the need to prevent trafficking in persons by pursuing a comprehensive and systematic approach through social, economic, health, education, justice and human rights policies in order to mitigate factors such as poverty, underdevelopment and a lack of equitable opportunities that result in unemployment and precarious criminal justice systems, which in turn make people more vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to, as a matter of priority, consider acceding to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

2. *Calls upon* States to implement targeted crime prevention measures to identify and address specific forms of trafficking in persons, in particular those that affect marginalized communities and highly vulnerable groups, and to address gender-based discrimination and violence, labour exploitation, economic inequalities and other factors that contribute to trafficking in persons;

3. *Urges* States, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective international obligations and domestic law, and taking into account best practices or

⁷ A/77/170.

other successful measures that have been developed in response to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, to:

(a) Implement, in support of the integration of a gender-sensitive and human rights-based approach, an analytical process for assessing potential systemic drivers of inequality, as well as the influence of all factors and how people experience policies, programmes and other initiatives aimed at preventing and combating organized crime, in order to subsequently adapt and respond more effectively to this phenomenon;

(b) Assess the gender-related risks of human trafficking and integrate those risks into crisis prevention and response frameworks, noting that such risks may also be compounded by intersecting elements, such as discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or migration or disability status;

(c) Strengthen partnerships with civil society and non-governmental organizations, victims of human trafficking, women leaders and girls in the inclusive and participatory planning, development and evaluation of anti-trafficking programmes and policies;

(d) Encourage the creation of alliances with local communities and civil society organizations to help actively identify and denounce human trafficking, as well as to build trust between authorities and communities;

(e) Incorporate, where possible, rigorously and scientifically collected baseline and end-line data, which may include measurements of the prevalence of trafficking to determine whether anti-trafficking programmes are having the intended effects, and renew the invitation made to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support States parties in developing such measurements, as required and upon request;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance for States parties to create or strengthen victim-centred prevention initiatives, as well as victim support, protection, engagement and empowerment activities, with a view to contributing to the long-term social inclusion of victims in order to prevent them from being recruited again;

5. *Encourages* States parties to curb demand by, inter alia, developing and evaluating focused strategies, including consumer-based campaigns, and working with the private sector to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons in supply chains, including the risks of recruitment-related abuse and exploitation;

6. *Recognizes* the need to effectively address the new challenges presented by the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by human traffickers, and calls upon States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to provide technical assistance to:

(a) Improve the capacity of national authorities to collect, disaggregate and analyse data and conduct in-depth analyses of emerging trends;

(b) Strengthen the technological capacities of law enforcement and relevant national authorities to conduct, as necessary and in a proportionate, lawful and accountable manner, investigations in cyberspace, including on the dark web, and to seize related electronic evidence;

(c) Train and exchange experience in mutual legal assistance and other forms of international cooperation for the purpose of obtaining digital evidence and witness statements in relation to predicate offences of money-laundering, among other crimes, consistent with human rights obligations;

(d) Increase cooperation to foster common understandings of the potential risks of harmful conduct in cyberspace and its impact on trafficking in persons;

7. *Calls upon* States to intensify international cooperation, including for capacity-building, exchange of best practices and know-how and technical assistance,

especially for developing countries, aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent and combat all forms of trafficking in persons and address the special needs of victims, including supporting their development programmes and to strengthen their criminal justice systems;

8. *Also calls upon* States to consider the importance of enhancing international cooperation and building bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, particularly in the areas of capacity-building, exchange of best practices and expertise, and technical assistance, to prevent all forms of trafficking and address the needs of victims, including by supporting development programmes and strengthening criminal justice systems;

9. *Invites* States to strengthen multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination among competent authorities at the national, regional and international levels;

10. *Urges* States to strengthen South-South cooperation and “whole-of-route” approaches to promote coordinated cross-border cooperation and foster international and regional collaboration, creating networks of competent authorities to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons and improve the exchange of good practices;

11. *Calls upon* States to improve the collection and analysis of data on trafficking in persons, in accordance with national legislation and international standards;

12. *Urges* States to make full use of the experience and tools of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in combating trafficking in persons;

13. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to conduct a study to evaluate the effectiveness of prevention and awareness-raising campaigns against trafficking in persons in reducing the vulnerability of people to such trafficking, in order to provide guidance to States parties, in particular with regard to the identification of better practices;

14. *Reiterates* its invitation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to continue to strengthen their activities related to the implementation of the relevant international instruments and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons with a view to promoting further progress in the elimination of trafficking in persons, and calls upon States parties and other international and bilateral donors to make voluntary contributions to the Office to that end, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

15. *Calls upon* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to fulfil its mandate to support States parties in the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, including through the provision of tailored, accessible and effective technical assistance, upon request;

16. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage States and other relevant actors to contribute to the trust fund;

17. *Urges* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.