



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

Distr.: Limited
19 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: revised 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 the importance of the United Nations Convention against
Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto¹ as the main international
legal instruments available to the international community to prevent and fight all
forms and manifestations of transnational organized crime and to protect the victims
of such crimes,

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,

Recalling its resolutions 5/2 of 22 October 2010 and 10/3 of 16 October 2020
and its decisions 2/3 of 20 October 2005 and 3/3 of 18 October 2006 on the
implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,

* [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.



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 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

Taking note also of the reports on the eleventh and twelfth meetings of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, held in Vienna on 12 and 13 October 2021 and on 29 and 30 June 2022, respectively,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,

Welcoming the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its tireless efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol,

Noting with appreciation the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, its development of tools, issue papers and training materials, the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* and its impact on improving global understanding of the nature and scope of, and trends related to, 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,

⁴ [CTOC/COP/2022/2](#).

⁵ [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/6](#) and [CTOC/COP/WG.4/2022/4](#).

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,

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,

Recalling that the purpose of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, as stated in article 2 thereof, is to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, paying particular attention to women and children,

Recalling also 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,

Taking note with appreciation of the issue papers published by the Office containing analyses of key concepts related to the definition of trafficking in persons provided in the Protocol, including abuse of a position of vulnerability, consent and exploitation, which have enhanced understanding among Member States and informed the recent revisions of the *Model Legislative Provisions against Trafficking in Persons* and the *Legislative Guide for the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime*,

Considering the importance of adopting effective measures, policies and programmes to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and especially to ensure the protection of those persons who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking,

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 negative impact that corruption can have on the effectiveness of the measures to prevent and combat transnational crime, including in relation to trafficking in persons,

Bearing in mind that some of the *modi operandi* employed by organized criminal groups engaged in trafficking in persons may also be employed for the commission of other serious crimes,

Concerned about the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by traffickers in persons, operating simultaneously and anonymously in

⁶ E/CN.6/2022/L.7.

⁷ A/77/170.

different locations, to recruit, control and exploit victims, in particular women and children, and to transfer funds associated with the crime,

Recognizing the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by constantly evolving information and communications technologies, and expressing concern that perpetrators of trafficking in persons have misused the Internet and other information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the purposes of recruitment and exploitation, especially of women and children, and controlling victims,

Acknowledging 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, which may make people more vulnerable to trafficking,

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. *Welcomes* the holding of the meetings of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in Vienna on 12 and 13 October 2021 and 29 and 30 June 2022, and the recommendations adopted at those meetings, and encourages States to make the best possible use of those recommendations;

3. *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;

4. *Also calls upon* States parties, as appropriate, and in accordance with their respective international obligations and domestic law, and taking into account best practices or other successful measures for responding to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, to:

(a) Implement an analytical process to assess the root causes of trafficking in persons, utilizing a gender-sensitive, victim-centred and 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 in combating trafficking in persons;

(b) Assess the gender-related risks of trafficking in persons and integrate them into prevention and response measures, noting that such risks may also be compounded by other factors, such as discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability or social and economic inequalities;

(c) Enhance their cooperation with civil society, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, academia, victims of trafficking in persons and other relevant organizations in order to encourage inclusive and participatory contributions to anti-trafficking programmes and policies at all stages;

(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;

5. *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;

6. *Calls upon* States parties to the Protocol, pursuant to article 9 thereof, to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking;

7. *Urges* States parties to discourage the demand that fosters trafficking in persons in procurement practices and supply chains, including the risk of recruitment-related abuse and exploitation by, inter alia, developing and evaluating focused strategies, including consumer-based campaigns, working with the private sector and, as appropriate, strengthening domestic laws and enhancing bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation;

8. *Recognizes* the need to effectively address the challenges presented by the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by human traffickers, urges States to provide technical assistance to developing countries, including financial and material assistance to support efforts to fight trafficking in persons, based on their needs and upon request, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and invites other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to assist requesting States in:

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

(b) Strengthening 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) Training and exchanging 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) Increasing cooperation to foster common understandings of the potential risks of harmful conduct in cyberspace and its impact on trafficking in persons;

9. *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 strengthening their criminal justice systems;

10. *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;

11. *Invites* States to strengthen multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination among competent authorities at the national, regional and international levels in preventing and combating trafficking in persons;

12. *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;

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

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

15. *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;

16. *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 invites 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;

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

18. *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;

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