

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia
Statement under Agenda Item 3
at the UNTOC Working Group on Trafficking in Persons
Vienna, 08-09 July 2024

Madame Co-Chair,

Let me shortly introduce a few recent developments in combating the child trafficking in Armenia.

Amendments made to the “Procedure for Providing Assistance to Potential Victims of Human Trafficking and Exploitation, Victims and Special Category Victims” set a stage for the development of a referral mechanism for trafficked or exploited children, the establishment of partnerships between the main actors, the prevention of cases of trafficking in minors through the development of interdepartmental cooperation, as well as effective organization and control of measures to support and protect children.

The government has developed a manual for local police on monitoring businesses for trafficking and engaging vulnerable communities, and adopted a law that restricts interviews for children to 90 minutes in the presence of a psychologist.

Therapy classes has been introduced as part of the victim-centered approach to help children in the poor communities to cope with the traumas of war which make children more vulnerable against the trafficking.

The Anti-Trafficking Platform of Armenia created and run by CSOs in a major tool for awareness raising among young population about the risks and hooks leading to trafficking. Guidebooks, and animation materials are created for that purposes.

Unfortunately, the child trafficking remains one of the most problematic and difficult areas in fight against trafficking also due to the insufficient cognitivity and consciousness of the objects of trafficking.

Additional factors, such as **conflicts and insecurity** can exacerbate children’s vulnerability to trafficking as many of them become orphans, leave their homes, relatives, habitat, strive for finding food and shelter. With people turning to negative coping strategies in order to survive and increased demand for goods and services increases the risk of trafficking. Last year only, Armenia gave shelter to 40.000 children of Armenian origin, who were obliged to flee from their birthplaces as a result of the war of aggression, that destroyed and seriously damaged 71 schools and 18 kindergartens, following blockade and policy of force displacement.

Summing up, we reiterate that it is our joint responsibility to address first of all the main factors exacerbating child trafficking. For these reasons, United Nations entities and other international actors active in settings affected by conflict have a crucial role to play in preventing and countering trafficking in persons, including children.

Thank you, Madame Co-Chair.