

By
Representative of the Islamic Republic
of Iran before
Working Group on Trafficking in Persons
(Vienna, 29-30 June 2022)

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, my delegation would like to express its gratitude for your able leadership in this session. We also appreciate the secretariat for commendable efforts made to support the work of the Working Group during the course of the session.

Mr. Chairman,

Trafficking in persons is a global challenge with arising numbers of victims, as such it requires a determined response at national and international levels. Trafficking and exploitation continue to be a tragic reality for many women, children and men worldwide and no country is immune to these heinous crimes.

That is a fact that the crime of trafficking in persons, as a transnational and organized crime is complex in nature to investigate and prosecute. Therefore, a primary challenge derives from its trans-national organized nature that involving multiple jurisdictions in which

suspects, perpetrator, victims, witnesses and evidence could be differently located.

in this context, differences in legal systems and the primarily national nature of criminal justice responses constitute obstacles for international cooperation in gathering evidence and sharing important information which hindering the successful investigation and prosecution of cross-border component of trafficking cases, as well as the protection of victims. Identifying and prosecuting the full chain of perpetrators could be particularly challenging, especially if they are located in different States.

Therefore, for successfully dismantling criminal networks and rescuing victims, removing above- mentioned barriers is necessary and requires the adoption of special measures and tools through international cooperation and coordination, including by establishment of joint investigations among concerned countries to enhance information-sharing, obtain and corroborate evidence scattered in different jurisdictions and locate suspects, witnesses and victims.

Mr. Chairman,

Both joint investigations and specialized prosecutions in the context of trafficking in persons are well -established practices and have been increasingly used by States parties over the years. Human traffickers are trying to be more vigilant in concealing their activities from law enforcement authorities. However, conducting joint investigations between and among countries of destination, transit and origin for trafficking in persons is crucial for the success of an investigation. Article 19 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational

Organized Crime and bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements could lay out the appropriate legal framework for the establishment of such joint investigations, with due respect of the sovereign right of States.

Mr. Chairman,

One of the significant challenges in International Cooperation to efficiently combating TIP, is unilateral coercive measures which imposed by certain states against some countries, which are contrary to the fundamental principles of international law, including the principles set forth within the charter of the UN.

They have meaningfully impaired allocation of sufficient resources to fight against crime including TIP and SOM and have further hindered cooperation with the other countries at the regional and international levels on criminal matters.

Finally, I.R of Iran recognizes the important role of UNODC in the global fight against trafficking in persons due to the significant role it can play in promoting the partnership pillar of the global campaign against trafficking in persons as well as its role in collecting and analyzing the relevant information.

Thank you for your attention.