



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

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Working Group on Trafficking in Persons

Vienna, 12 and 13 October 2021

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons.
3. Measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons will be opened on Tuesday, 12 October 2021, at 11 a.m. In view of recent developments relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meeting will be held in a hybrid format (in person and online). Further information on the format will be made available on the web page of the meeting.¹

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

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 to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons would be a constant element of the Conference, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the Working Group to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed, and to hold its meetings consecutively with

¹ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-trafficking-2021.html.



other working groups of the Conference, in order to ensure the effective use of resources.

On 11 September 2020, the extended Bureau of the Conference agreed, by means of silence procedure, on the meeting plan for 2021. On 23 April 2021, the extended Bureau also agreed, by means of silence procedure, on the dates for the eleventh meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, namely, 12 and 13 October 2021, and on the substantive topics for that meeting. On 11 August 2021, the extended Bureau agreed to hold the meeting in a hybrid format.

The proposed organization of work (see annex) was prepared in accordance with Conference resolution 7/1, in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the time and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of four plenary meetings over two days, with interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

Possible changes in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

In the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to predict the impact of possible health and safety measures, including travel restrictions, on the meeting of the Working Group. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the situation closely and, subject to the approval of the extended Bureau, will provide timely updates if any further changes or measures are required. Delegations are therefore advised to regularly consult the web page of the eleventh meeting of the Working Group.

2. Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons

Under agenda item 2, the Working Group may wish to discuss how technological advances are shaping and facilitating trafficking in persons and creating additional barriers to the detection and investigation of the crime. In this context, the Working Group may wish to share information based on national experiences on emerging trends and *modi operandi* of traffickers to entrap, exploit and control victims.

The Working Group may also wish to examine how technology can be harnessed to prevent, detect, intervene in and otherwise respond to trafficking in persons. Focus could be placed on how States, law enforcement agencies and private bodies collect, retain and use information gathered during investigation processes. The Working Group may thus wish to identify good practices and effective strategies in deploying technology to combat trafficking in persons.

For its consideration of agenda item 2, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/2)

3. Measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels

Strengthening procurement policies to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons and exploitation is an area of increased interest to States and the international community. It has been addressed in a resolution on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its thirtieth session, recommended to the Economic and Social Council for adoption, and by the Security Council in its resolutions [2331 \(2016\)](#) and [2388 \(2017\)](#). The topic has not been previously addressed by the Working Group as a dedicated agenda item.

Accordingly, the Working Group may wish to discuss national policies and measures to strengthen government procurement to ensure that it does not contribute to trafficking in persons, including through the use of regulatory standards and due diligence practices to prevent exploitative labour in contracts for the production or procurement of goods or for the provision of services, and to prevent fraudulent recruitment. The Working Group may also wish to share information on measures put in place to regulate commercial activity to prevent trafficking in persons, forced labour or exploitation in the context of commercial procurement activities and global supply chains, as well as related monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.

For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/3)

4. Other matters

The Working Group may wish to address the proposed recommendations on which it was unable to complete the negotiations during its meeting held on 10 and 11 September 2020. In line with the agreement of the Working Group in that meeting, the draft recommendations discussed during the meeting were circulated among delegations in the form of a non-paper for comments. Further to the receipt and consolidation of comments, the draft recommendations were submitted as a conference room paper (CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.2) to the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session.

The Working Group will have before it a thematic compendium prepared by the Secretariat covering all past background papers of the Working Group since its first meeting. The compendium is thematically clustered and contains brief summaries of specific topics, related issues and available knowledge, with a view to facilitating related and future discussions of the Working Group at its meetings, reducing duplication and providing experts with quick access to existing and compiled guidance.

Documentation

Conference room paper prepared by the Secretariat for the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its tenth session containing comments of States parties and observers on the outcome of the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, held on 10 and 11 September 2020 (CTOC/COP/2020/CRP.2)

Thematic compendium of background papers of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons since its first meeting, prepared by the Secretariat (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2021/5)

5. Adoption of the report

The Working Group is expected to adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Tuesday, 12 October		
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons
3–5 p.m.	2	Successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons (<i>continued</i>)
	3	Measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels
	Wednesday, 13 October	
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels (<i>continued</i>)
	4	Other matters
3–5 p.m.	4	Other matters (<i>continued</i>)
	5	Adoption of the report