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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

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The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the [[[FunctionalTitle2]]] and has the honour to draw the attention of the Government to decision 4/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entitled “Trafficking in Human Beings”.

In its decision 4/4, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended interim working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

It also decided that the working group should perform the following functions:

- (i) Facilitate implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices between experts and practitioners in this area, including by contributing to the identification of weaknesses, gaps and challenges;
- (ii) Make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iii) Assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iv) Make recommendations to the Conference on how it can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating trafficking in persons with respect to implementing, supporting and promoting the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

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The Conference further decided that the working group should meet during the fifth session of the Conference and should hold at least one intersessional meeting before that session. A first intersessional meeting of the working group was held in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 15 April 2009. The report of that meeting is available in all the United Nations official languages at:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-trafficking-in-persons-protocol.html>

At its first meeting, the Working Group agreed that, subject to availability of resources and interest by States, it could be useful to hold another intersessional meeting of the Working Group prior to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties, which met on 16 April 2009, confirmed the advisability of convening a second intersessional meeting of the working group and decided that such meeting should focus on a few specific issues to allow a fruitful exchange of views and experiences among experts and practitioners in the area of combating trafficking in persons. It requested the Secretariat to consult Member States on their specific areas of interest related to the implementation of the Trafficking Protocol.

The Government is accordingly informed that a second meeting of the open-ended interim working group on the Trafficking in Persons Protocol will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 27 to 29 January 2010.

Further, **the Government is kindly invited to propose topics for discussion of the Working Group at its second meeting.** The Bureau will consider the proposals received from Member States and will choose three topics for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the second meeting of the Working Group.

Areas of interest that have emerged from the first meeting of the Working group and that the Government may wish to consider in its proposals of topics include:

- (a) national legislation to combat trafficking in persons: applicable principles of Islamic law;
- (b) definition of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (c) good practices in discouraging the demand for exploitative services;
- (d) non-punishment and non-prosecution of trafficked persons for offences committed in the process of being trafficked;
- (e) national approaches to compensation of victims of trafficking in persons;
- (f) good practices and tools for front line law enforcement officers in responding to trafficking in persons;
- (g) risk assessment in human trafficking investigations;
- (f) case management in human trafficking investigations and prosecutions.

It would be appreciated if the Government's response with proposals of topics could be sent by 31st July 2009 to the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria, Fax: +43-1 26060 75752 or to email: untoc.cop@unodc.org.

8 July 2009

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'SR'.