

Trafficking in Persons

Compendium and Thematic Index of Recommendations,
Resolutions and Decisions

Trafficking in Persons: Compendium and Thematic Index of Recommendations, Resolutions and Decisions



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^{*} At the sixth session (15 to 19 October 2012), seventh session (6 to 10 October 2014), eighth session (17 to 21 October 2016) and ninth session (15 to 19 October 2018), the Conference of the Parties did not adopt any resolution or decision on trafficking in persons.

Introduction

At its meetings, the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons adopts recommendations on pressing areas of concern, seeking to guide Member States towards effective and up-to-date implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as to guide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in supporting efforts in that regard. The recommendations are regularly submitted to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime for further endorsement.

At its fifth meeting, in 2013, the Working Group requested UNODC to prepare and maintain a consolidated record of all of the recommendations adopted at its various meetings (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2013/5, para. 45), in order to facilitate future discussions and negotiations.

In view of that request, UNODC has prepared a compendium in the six official languages of the United Nations containing all of the recommendations adopted by the Working Group. The compendium is complemented by a thematic index to facilitate navigation.

In addition, the compendium and the thematic index include all of the resolutions and decisions on trafficking in persons adopted to date by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention. This information is aimed at providing additional references to facilitate discussions in all relevant forums.

For ease of reference, the recommendations of the Working Group are listed in part A of the compendium, while resolutions and decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention are listed in part B and in shaded boxes in the thematic index.

In the thematic index, some recommendations are categorized under more than one topic in order to reflect the full variety and complexity of all aspects touched upon in the texts.

Compendium of recommendations and relevant resolutions and decisions

Part A of the compendium contains all of the recommendations adopted by the Working Group at its first 13 meetings, while part B contains all of the resolutions and decisions on trafficking in persons adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its first 11 sessions. Both parts are organized chronologically.

A. Recommendations adopted by the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons at its first 13 meetings

I. First meeting, 14 and 15 April 2009

- 1. With regard to the overall mandate of the Working Group outlined in Conference decision 4/4, the Working Group recommended that States adopt a comprehensive and balanced approach to combating trafficking in persons, inter alia, through mutual cooperation, in recognition of States' shared responsibility as countries of origin, destination and transit.
- 2. With regard to achieving universal adherence to and effective implementation of the minimum requirements outlined in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ as an initial step toward combating trafficking in persons, States that have not yet done so should become parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime² and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 3. In order to achieve a better understanding of the obstacles that States, in particular signatories to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, may have in becoming parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Conference should consider the inclusion of an optional question, on the status of the ratification process, in the assessment checklist on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols.
- 4. With regard to the adoption of adequate national legislation, the Secretariat should step up its legislative assistance activities to respond to the needs of requesting States.
- 5. States parties should:
 - (a) Criminalize conduct that facilitates and supports trafficking in persons;
- (b) Enact legislation for the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, in particular legislation that criminalizes participation in an organized criminal group and corruption, and establish trafficking in persons as a predicate offence for the laundering of the proceeds of crime.
- 6. With regard to the definition of concepts that might require further clarity, the Secretariat should prepare, in consultation with States parties, issue papers to assist States parties in better understanding and interpreting key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, especially legally relevant definitions in order to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings.

¹United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

²Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

- 7. With regard to prevention and awareness-raising, States parties should:
- (a) Consider the inclusion of trafficking in persons in public education curricula;
- (b) Launch awareness-raising campaigns directed at the general public, at specific groups and at communities vulnerable to being trafficked, taking into account local contexts. In doing so, they should consider making effective utilization of mass media (radio and television programmes, including soap operas able to reach vulnerable groups, and the press) and of important public events or personalities;
- (c) Consider discussing plans for awareness-raising campaigns with the Secretariat and other States parties that have launched similar campaigns;
- (d) Explore modalities to reinforce the educating and awareness-raising of users or potential users of sexual services and the products of forced labour and of other types of exploitation and to increase their understanding of trafficking in persons and violence against women and children.
- 8. With regard to training, States parties should provide training to front-line law enforcement officials (police officers, labour inspectors, immigration officers and border guards), soldiers involved in peacekeeping missions, consular officers, prosecutorial and judicial authorities, medical services providers and social workers, involving relevant non-governmental organizations and civil society representatives, where appropriate and in line with national legislation, in order to enable national authorities to respond effectively to trafficking in persons, especially by identifying the victims of such trafficking.
- 9. The Secretariat should step up the provision of capacity-building activities to requesting States by organizing training courses and seminars.
- 10. With regard to trafficking for labour exploitation, States parties should:
- (a) Strengthen partnerships with the private sector in order to effectively combat trafficking for labour exploitation;
- (b) Discourage the demand for exploitative services and the products of forced labour by ensuring that Governments first properly identify exploitative services and products of forced labour and then raise public awareness of such services and products.
- 11. With regard to ensuring the non-punishment and non-prosecution of trafficked persons, States parties should:
- (a) Establish appropriate procedures for identifying victims of trafficking in persons and for giving such victims support;
- (b) Consider, in line with their domestic legislation, not punishing or prosecuting trafficked persons for unlawful acts committed by them as a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons or where they were compelled to commit such unlawful acts.
- 12. With regard to victim protection and assistance, States parties should:
- (a) Adopt a human rights-based approach to victim protection and assistance that is not contingent on the citizenship and immigration status of the victim;

- (b) Develop and apply minimum standards for the protection and assistance of victims of trafficking in persons;
- (c) Ensure victims are provided with immediate support and protection, irrespective of their involvement in the criminal justice process. Such support may include the right to stay temporarily or, in appropriate cases, permanently in the territory where they are identified;
- (d) Ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to protect the confidentiality and privacy of victims of trafficking;
- (e) Develop, disseminate to practitioners and systematically use criteria for the identification of victims;
- (f) Ensure that national legislation against trafficking in persons criminalizes the threat or intimidation of victims of such trafficking or of witnesses in related criminal proceedings;
 - (g) Address the need for a more effective allocation of funds for assisting victims;
- (h) Ensure that responses to child trafficking at all levels are always based on the best interest of the child.
- 13. With regard to the compensation for victims of trafficking, States parties should consider the possibility of establishing appropriate procedures to allow victims to obtain compensation and restitution.
- 14. With regard to the protection of victims as witnesses, States parties should ensure measures for the protection of victims, including the provision of temporary and safe shelter and witness protection procedures, where appropriate.
- 15. The Secretariat should evaluate whether its work on good practices for the protection of witnesses in criminal proceedings involving organized crime could be supplemented by additional work in the area of countering trafficking in persons.
- 16. With regard to the coordination of efforts at the national level, States parties should:
- (a) Establish national coordinating bodies or interministerial task forces composed of officials from relevant Government ministries (dealing with justice, internal affairs, health and welfare, labour, immigration, foreign affairs etc.), to counter trafficking in persons. Such mechanisms could develop comprehensive and coordinated policies against trafficking in persons while promoting better cooperation, monitoring the implementation of national action plans and promoting research on trafficking in persons, taking into account the work of relevant national non-governmental organizations;
- (b) Develop coordination mechanisms at the local or district level, including non-governmental service providers whenever possible.
- 17. With regard to data collection, research and analysis, the Conference should:
- (a) Explore the advisability of developing a real-time online tool to assess trends and patterns in trafficking in persons;
- (b) Consider the advisability of having the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) continue to produce the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, based on the information collected through existing data collection mechanisms;

- (c) Request States parties to contribute national data to a database administered by the Secretariat to measure the response to trafficking in persons.
- 18. With regard to the provision of technical assistance to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, the Secretariat should:
- (a) Continue to provide technical assistance to States parties, upon request, to assist them in implementing the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols;
- (b) Prepare a list of cost-efficient measures and tools, in consultation with States parties, to respond to trafficking in persons;
- (c) Develop, disseminate and systematically use criteria for the identification of victims, in consultation with States parties.
- 19. With regard to the role of the Conference of the Parties in coordinating international action against trafficking in persons, the Conference should consider:
- (a) Establishing an online real-time mechanism to update the information submitted by States parties through the self-assessment checklist on the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols;
- (b) Requesting the intergovernmental meeting of experts referred to in Conference decision 4/1 to pay attention to ways and means of achieving and measuring progress as well as to define needs for technical assistance in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (c) Establishing greater linkages and increasing exchange of information with other United Nations treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;
- (d) Requesting the Secretariat to continue coordinating the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and report on its activities.
- 20. With regard to the adoption of a regional approach to combat trafficking in persons, the Conference should consider and encourage regional cooperation in responding to trafficking in persons and promoting the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, while avoiding duplication of effort in that regard.
- 21. The Secretariat should exchange more information with regional and other international organizations involved in fighting trafficking in persons.
- 22. With regard to international cooperation at the operational level, the Secretariat should establish a network of national contact points for efforts to counter trafficking in persons based on existing available contact points with which work could be done to promote timely regional and international cooperation.

23. States parties should:

- (a) Utilize those provisions of the Organized Crime Convention that facilitate the use of joint investigation teams and special investigative techniques in the investigation of cases of trafficking in persons at the international level;
- (b) Utilize the Organized Crime Convention and other multilateral legal instruments to develop and strengthen international judicial cooperation, including with regard

to extradition, mutual legal assistance and confiscation of the proceeds of trafficking in persons;

(c) Organize and participate in training sessions for central authorities and others involved in judicial cooperation at the regional or interregional level, especially involving States parties connected through trafficking flows as countries of origin, transit or destination for trafficking in persons.

II. Second meeting, 27 to 29 January 2010

- 1. States parties should make better use of tools and materials produced by UNODC and those produced by other organizations, such as the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,³ which were produced to support the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 2. With regard to developing a comprehensive, multidimensional response to trafficking in persons, States parties should apply a victim-centred approach, with full respect for the human rights of victims of such trafficking.
- 3. States parties should consider developing guidelines for law enforcement officials on culture-, gender- and age-sensitive responses to victims of trafficking in persons, including standards and procedures for identifying and interviewing victims of trafficking in persons and methods for advising such victims of their rights.
- 4. States parties were encouraged to note the important role of civil society in the fight against trafficking in persons and should seek to effectively integrate civil society into national, regional and international strategies to prevent such trafficking, as well as into strategies to protect and care for victims of such trafficking, in accordance with domestic regulations.
- 5. States parties should consider providing, where appropriate, legal, medical and social assistance to all potential victims of trafficking in persons, including legal representation and assistance to victims of such trafficking who are minors, in accordance with article 6, subparagraph 2, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 6. Noting the low rate of convictions for trafficking in persons globally, as reported in the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* published by UNODC in 2009, States parties should increase their efforts to investigate and prosecute cases involving trafficking in persons, including by making timely use of financial investigation techniques, special investigative techniques and other tools designed to combat other forms of organized crime.

³E/2002/68/Add.1.

- 7. States parties should increase cross-border criminal justice action through enhanced use of joint investigations, information-sharing and confiscation of assets, in line with their domestic legislation.
- 8. States parties should take into account the recommendations contained in paragraph 17 of the report of the Working Group on its meeting held in Vienna on 14 and 15 April 2009 (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2009/2), and establish national coordination mechanisms, also at the level of investigation and prosecution.
- 9. With regard to coordination, States parties should increase efforts to enhance cross-border criminal justice action, including, where appropriate, by making increased use of joint investigations, special investigative techniques, information-sharing and the transfer of knowledge regarding the use of those measures.
- 10. States should make use of joint investigations as a practical means of offering technical assistance to other States and strengthening a transnational criminal justice response to trafficking in persons. In particular, joint operations should be undertaken between countries of origin and destination.
- 11. States parties should acknowledge the importance of developing partnerships between as well as within countries, recognizing the important role that civil society plays when working in partnership with government at all levels.
- 12. States parties were encouraged to develop partnerships with the private sector in their efforts to combat trafficking in persons.
- 13. With regard to training programmes, States parties should involve all stakeholders, including law enforcement agencies, victim service providers, prosecutors and consular representatives, and should seek to involve judges.
- 14. In addition, in view of the tools and materials developed by UNODC at the global level, States parties were encouraged to develop country-specific training materials, with UNODC providing any required technical assistance on request.
- 15. Further to the recommendations contained in paragraph 19 of the report on the 2009 meeting of the Working Group, UNODC should continue to provide technical assistance, on request, to assist in the enhancement of regional coordination and cooperation, including capacity-building in that area in States and regions.
- 16. With regard to research, the Conference should consider requesting UNODC to continue compiling and regularly producing the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, including through the use of a computerized database for which information could be submitted on a regular basis. The Conference should also consider requesting UNODC to compile good practices in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, especially in the areas of prosecution and victim protection.
- 17. States parties should, further to the recommendations contained in paragraph 18 of the report on the 2009 meeting of the Working Group, consider supporting more extensive research into all forms of trafficking in persons, including labour exploitation.

- 18. States parties should support research into profiling the crime of trafficking in persons, developing typologies and analysis regarding methodologies and offenders.
- 19. UNODC should continue to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request, to improve the collection of data on trafficking in persons.
- 20. States parties should consider conducting research on the factors that make certain events, locations, communities, countries and regions more likely to be a place of origin of trafficked persons or a transit area or a destination used for trafficking in persons. States parties should also consider further research on socioeconomic factors and how those factors affect markets, focusing in particular on the demand for trafficking in persons.
- 21. States parties should monitor and evaluate the results and impact of measures undertaken at the national level. Member States should consider establishing an institution (such as a national rapporteur or committee, which could be independent) to carry out such evaluation and monitoring and to make recommendations for further action at the national level.
- 22. In accordance with the recommendation of the meeting of experts on possible mechanisms to review implementation of the Organized Crime Convention, the Conference should create an open-ended working group on the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols with a view to exploring options regarding an appropriate and effective mechanism to assist the Conference in the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, as soon as feasible, taking into account the importance of the matter to all Member States.
- 23. To avoid duplication of effort, States parties should take advantage of existing experience at the regional level.
- 24. With regard to those concepts in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol on which States parties might require clarification:
- (a) The Conference should provide guidance to States parties on those concepts;
- (b) Further to the recommendations contained in paragraph 7 of the report of that Working Group on its 2009 meeting, the Secretariat should prepare, in consultation with States parties, issue papers to assist criminal justice officers in penal proceedings, on subjects such as consent; harbouring, receipt and transport; abuse of a position of vulnerability; exploitation; and transnationality. In addition, the Secretariat should ensure that any new concepts were integrated into existing tools and materials.
- 25. In applying the definition of trafficking in persons under the Protocol and consistent with the Protocol, States parties should ensure that:
- (a) Where deception, coercion or other means as stipulated in article 3, subparagraph (a), of the Protocol, were present, the consent of the victim was irrelevant to establishing trafficking in persons;
- (b) Trafficking in persons could be established before an act of exploitation had occurred.

- 26. In accordance with article 3, subparagraph (a), of the Protocol, States parties should pay close attention to the acts of trafficking (recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons) and recognize that the presence of any of those acts could mean that the offence of trafficking in persons had been committed, even in the absence of transit or transportation.
- 27. With regard to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, States parties should interpret the Protocol in the context of the Organized Crime Convention.
- 28. In view of the fact that the Protocol did not provide model legislative provisions, States parties should draft or amend national legislation in line with their domestic circumstances.
- 29. States parties should acknowledge the importance of voluntary victim-witness cooperation in seeking convictions for trafficking in persons. In conformity with article 25 of the Organized Crime Convention, States parties should adopt measures to assist and protect victims, regardless of whether or not they cooperated with the criminal justice authorities. The absence of testimony would not rule out the provision of assistance.
- 30. States parties might use the provisions of article 26, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Organized Crime Convention to secure the testimony of members of an organized criminal group in investigations and prosecutions of cases involving trafficking in persons, for the purpose of prosecuting other members of the organized criminal group.
- 31. States parties were encouraged to consider the issues of supply and demand to be interconnected and should take a holistic approach in their responses to trafficking in persons, in order to address both phenomena.
- 32. States parties should view the reduction of demand for exploitative services as requiring an integrated and coordinated response.
- 33. States parties should develop responses to the demand for all types of services where trafficking victims were exploited, including but not limited to sexual services.
- 34. Further to the recommendations contained in paragraph 11 of the report on the 2009 meeting of the Working Group, in order to more forcefully discourage the demand for goods and services produced by victims of trafficking, States parties should consider adopting measures to discourage the use of such goods and services.
- 35. The Conference should continue its examination of the demand for exploitative services in relation to trafficking in persons, retaining the relevant agenda item.
- 36. States parties should develop awareness-raising initiatives for employers and consumers with the goal of rendering socially unacceptable the use of goods and services provided under exploitative circumstances by victims of trafficking.
- 37. States parties should adopt and strengthen practices aimed at discouraging demand for exploitative services, including considering measures to regulate, register and license private recruitment agencies; raising the awareness of employers to ensure their supply

chains were free of trafficking in persons; enforcing labour standards through labour inspections and other relevant means; enforcing labour regulations; increasing the protection of the rights of migrant workers; and/or adopting measures to discourage the use of the services of victims of trafficking.

- 38. With regard to conducting research into demand for the services and products of trafficked persons, States parties should consider collecting relevant data, including on the socioeconomic factors increasing the demand and on the consumers of goods and services provided by trafficked persons, disaggregated by the form of exploitation, such as labour or sexual exploitation or trafficking in persons for the removal of organs and trafficking in human organs.
- 39. States parties were encouraged to share information on the impact on trafficking in persons of legislation criminalizing, decriminalizing or legalizing prostitution.
- 40. The Secretariat should compile and distribute examples of good practices for addressing the demand for exploitative services, including research into all forms of exploitation and the factors underpinning demand and measures to raise public awareness of products and services produced by exploitative and forced labour. To facilitate that process, States parties should provide such examples to the Secretariat.
- 41. States parties should conduct campaigns targeting potential victims of trafficking in persons in vulnerable groups and regions and the potential users of goods or services provided by victims of trafficking, in order to raise awareness of the illegality of traffickers' actions and the criminal nature of trafficking in persons.
- 42. States parties should ensure that demand reduction strategies included anti-trafficking training for all the relevant segments of society.
- 43. With regard to ensuring the non-punishment and non-prosecution of trafficked persons, the Working Group reaffirmed that States parties should implement the recommendations contained in paragraph 12 of the report on the 2009 meeting of the Working Group.
- 44. States parties should ensure that, provisions for the non-punishment and non-prosecution of trafficked persons contained in domestic legislation, guidelines, regulations, preambles or other instruments were clearly stated. In doing so, States parties are encouraged to make use of technical assistance tools such as the UNODC Model Law against Trafficking in Persons⁴ and principles and guidelines such as the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as any other regional standards and guidelines.
- 45. States parties should respect human rights standards in all measures concerning victims of trafficking in persons.

⁴United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.V.11.

- 46. States parties should ensure that acts and procedures of their criminal justice systems did not cause secondary victimization.⁵
- 47. States parties should acknowledge and support the important role played by civil society in protecting and assisting victims and supporting the criminal justice process.
- 48. States parties should provide specialized training to criminal justice practitioners, including law enforcers and prosecutors, on trafficking in persons and the human rights abuses that the victims might have suffered, and should seek to involve judges. The Conference should consider requesting UNODC to continue providing to States, on request, technical assistance in the training of criminal justice practitioners.
- 49. States parties should endeavour to ensure the availability of a compensation fund or similar mechanism for victims of crimes, including trafficking in persons.
- 50. The Secretariat should compile and disseminate:
- (a) Good practices regarding provisions for the non-prosecution or non-punishment of victims in national legislation against trafficking in persons;
 - (b) Best practices in relation to victim identification, protection and assistance.
- 51. To support that process, States parties should provide to the Secretariat information regarding national practices so that others could learn from their experiences.
- 52. States parties should endeavour to ensure that case management approaches covered all phases of the criminal justice process related to trafficking in persons, with appropriate follow-up, from the point of interception to the point of reintegration. States parties should ensure that case management systems were knowledge-based by regularly reviewing processes in the light of changing situations and circumstances.
- 53. States parties should take measures to ensure that anti-trafficking responses were coordinated and consistent at all levels.
- 54. States parties should ensure that specialized staff in law enforcement agencies and other parts of the criminal justice system received necessary training and support, including psychological care, as required.
- 55. States parties should ensure that special training was provided for criminal justice practitioners. Such training should also be extended to all court staff and victim service providers and should include sensitization to trauma and appropriate gender, age, cultural and other considerations.
- 56. The Conference should consider the advisability of requesting UNODC to collect best practices in the management of trafficking in persons cases that incorporated a cooperative approach between and among law enforcement agencies and other specialized services such as victim service providers, with the aim of, inter alia, providing clear

⁵In accordance with the UNODC Model Law against Trafficking in Persons, secondary victimization refers to victimization that occurs not as a direct result of the criminal act but through the response of institutions and individuals to the victim.

procedures and policies and written agreements to avoid delays and secondary victimization of trafficking victims; incorporating a gender-, age- and culture-sensitive approach that also addressed the special needs of children; language assistance for potential victims from the point of interception to the point of reintegration; and health and psychological assistance in consideration of the particular challenges faced by victims of trafficking.

- 57. The Secretariat should consider compiling a roster of anti-trafficking training courses and United Nations experts to support States parties in their efforts to train their criminal justice practitioners.
- 58. The Secretariat should assist States parties, on request, in increasing their capacity to collect, analyse and share data on the situation with regard to trafficking in persons and responses to such trafficking.

III. Third meeting, 19 October 2010

The recommendations proposed during the third meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons were subsequently endorsed by the Working Group at its fourth meeting, held from 10 to 12 October 2011 (see part A, sect. IV).

IV. Fourth meeting, 10 to 12 October 2011

- 1. Coordination among United Nations entities with regard to efforts against trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs should be encouraged.
- 2. States parties should encourage relevant United Nations entities, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), to gather evidence-based data on trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, including the root causes, trends and modi operandi, with the aim of facilitating better understanding and awareness of the phenomenon, while recognizing the difference between trafficking in organs, tissues and cells.
- 3. States parties should make better use of the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in combating trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs, especially for joint investigations and intelligence-gathering.
- 4. States parties should take measures to ensure the full and effective implementation of the applicable provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and the Organized Crime Convention relating to trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs.
- 5. States parties should, in the course of a comprehensive approach to preventing trafficking in persons, develop measures to raise awareness in particular among vulnerable groups, including potential victims of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal.

- 6. States parties should encourage relevant entities responsible for preventing and combating trafficking in persons to coordinate with the relevant representatives of the health sector, including health service providers, to ensure better guidance for all actors in identifying and responding to trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs.
- 7. The use of public-private partnerships in the context of preventing trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs should be encouraged.
- 8. UNODC should develop a training module on trafficking in persons for the purpose of removal of organs and related conduct and begin to provide technical assistance, especially with regard to investigation, the exchange of information and international legal cooperation.
- 9. States parties should continue to support the work of UNODC to combat trafficking in persons by providing information to UNODC identifying examples of abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability and how those concepts are addressed and applied in domestic law or jurisprudence, recognizing that those concepts may vary from country to country according to their legislation and jurisprudence.
- 10. UNODC should be requested to carry out an assessment of factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons (such as age, cultural aspects, ethnicity, economic situation, academic background, gender, migration status/administrative situation, mental and physical health and humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters), taking into consideration the fact that abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability can occur at all stages of the process of trafficking in persons.
- 11. States parties should elaborate the various factors in their jurisdictions that can render persons subject to abuse of a position of vulnerability in order to enhance awareness of the full scope of the crime while recognizing that application of that concept may vary from country to country according to domestic legislation and criminal justice systems.
- 12. States parties could focus on the action of the offenders and their intention to take advantage of the situation of the victims, for example by focusing on the means by which offenders do so.
- 13. States parties should raise awareness among their relevant national authorities, including, where appropriate, through training to facilitate identification of situations in which there has been abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability and, on that basis, take appropriate measures for the protection of, and the provision of assistance to, victims to ensure the appropriate response to their trauma.
- 14. States parties should raise awareness among State and non-State victim service providers of the factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons so as to better assist and support trafficked persons.
- 15. States parties should seek to reduce vulnerability to trafficking in persons by increasing equal opportunities for women and men, including by ensuring equal access to higher education and development for women and children and equal access for women to the labour market, as well as by increasing the opportunities for women to access decision-making positions.

- 16. States parties should take measures to combat trafficking in persons occurring through the abuse of the vulnerability of children.
- 17. States parties may consider the relevant guidance provided in regional instruments and measures, including the Explanatory Report on the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, and the recommendations contained in the official document of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors entitled the "Santiago Guidelines", concerning the duty of such entities to facilitate access to justice for vulnerable victims, in particular its chapter devoted to victims of human trafficking.
- 18. States parties should consider whether to define "victim of trafficking" in their domestic legal frameworks.
- 19. States parties are encouraged to develop a proactive and systematic approach to the identification of victims of trafficking in persons and the provision of assistance, support and protection in accordance with the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 20. States parties should consider developing and disseminating tailor-made indicators for different practitioners, taking into consideration the need for a multi-stakeholder approach and the specific roles of potential actors in combating trafficking in persons. Such potential actors who could identify victims include law enforcement, the judiciary, victim service providers, the private sector, health and social work professionals and other relevant actors. States parties should also periodically assess the relevance of those indicators.
- 21. States parties should endeavour to ensure that actors who could identify victims of trafficking in persons are made aware of relevant and specific information likely to expedite the identification of victims of trafficking.
- 22. States parties are encouraged to raise awareness of the control methods of traffickers and their potential impact on victims, making use, as appropriate, of technical assistance tools such as the UNODC Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners.
- 23. States parties should create a safe environment for victims, with the full involvement of civil society, that is designed to rehabilitate victims and return to them a sense of dignity.
- 24. States parties should consider providing a sufficient period of time during which victims may receive appropriate assistance, to decide about their possible cooperation with law enforcement and their participation in a judicial process.
- 25. States parties should acknowledge the concept of shared responsibility in implementing measures to counter trafficking in persons, thus bringing together countries of origin, transit and destination in the development of evidence-based strategies and activities, including awareness-raising.
- 26. States parties should consider assessing, improving, simplifying and expanding their international legal cooperation efforts in cases involving trafficking in persons, where appropriate.

- 27. States parties should consider rendering criminal acts as defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol extraditable, irrespective of whether the laws of the requesting and requested States parties define the acts constituting the offence within the same category of offences, denominate the offence by the same terminology or define or characterize it in the same way.
- 28. States parties should increase their efforts with respect to exchanging information and law enforcement intelligence, where appropriate, to determine trafficking routes regionally, subregionally and transregionally and to combat transnational organized crime.
- 29. States parties should consider taking measures to contribute to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, recognizing its six objectives and expressing their view that the Global Plan of Action will promote increased ratification and implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 30. States parties that have not yet contributed to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, should consider doing so.
- 31. States parties should consider joining the Group of Friends United against Trafficking in Persons.
- 32. States parties should provide exhaustive and objective information for inclusion in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which is being prepared by UNODC for publication in 2012.
- 33. States parties should use new technologies to raise awareness of trafficking in persons through activities such as virtual teaching, thus reaching a wider audience and increasing the possibility of exchanges of good practices.
- 34. States parties should consider making use of the signs of the Blue Heart and Blue Blindfold campaigns and include them in their awareness-raising campaigns as symbols of the fight against trafficking in persons.
- 35. States parties should consider mainstreaming measures to counter human trafficking when they create or amend laws, strategies, programmes and policies of general application.
- 36. States parties should consider the possibility of implementing measures to prohibit the dissemination, through any means of communication, of advertisements and publications that promote the exploitation of persons, in particular children, especially sexual exploitation, in order to prevent trafficking in persons and combat sociocultural patterns that sustain gender inequality and discrimination against women.
- 37. States parties should cooperate with countries of origin, including with civil society, in order to provide appropriate protection, assistance and rehabilitation for victims of trafficking in persons and assist with their reintegration upon return, where appropriate.
- 38. States parties should consider carrying out capacity-building activities for law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial officials and consular staff from countries of origin, transit and destination.

- 39. States parties should ensure that multidimensional measures are put in place to support coordination and cooperation at both the national and international levels, taking into consideration the local specificities and needs identified on the ground, to address both supply and demand.
- 40. States parties should take measures to advance poverty alleviation and employment programmes, with a view to addressing the demand and supply sides of trafficking in persons as a contribution to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 41. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons should continue its work in advising and assisting the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- 42. The Conference should encourage States to send experts to share experiences and good practices, as well as invite representatives from other United Nations entities to present relevant initiatives against trafficking in persons so as to integrate the work of the United Nations system into the work of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and UNODC.
- 43. The Conference should encourage States parties and UNODC to inform the Working Group on the implementation of the recommendations approved by the Working Group and endorsed by the Conference.
- 44. The Conference should call upon States parties to support and submit cases to the UNODC human trafficking case law database, in order to review and identify new trends and good practices from those cases.
- 45. The Working Group recommends to the Conference that the following topics, inter alia, be considered for future sessions of the Working Group:
- (a) Continued focus on key concepts of the Protocol, including consent, abuse of power and deception, with reference also to related international instruments;
- (b) Crimes connected to trafficking, especially money-laundering and corruption, as well as responses, including confiscation of assets;
- (c) Different actors related to trafficking, for instance military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel;
- (d) Different forms of labour exploitation, especially domestic servitude, with particular reference to domestic servitude involving diplomatic personnel;
- (e) Forms of exploitation not specifically mentioned in the Protocol but that have arisen in national, regional or international contexts or practice;
- (f) How to reduce demand, including by fostering public-private partnerships and identifying factors that drive trafficking;
- (g) Liability of legal persons as described in paragraph 44 of General Assembly resolution 64/293;
- (h) Links between gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, both in supply and demand;
 - (i) Links between trafficking in persons and other forms of organized crime;

- (j) Trafficking in children, particularly the phenomenon of parents who sell or rent their children for an exploitative purpose, such as begging or forced marriage;
 - (k) Trafficking in persons for the removal of organs.
- 46. The Working Group endorsed, as orally amended the following recommendations that had been proposed by the Chair of the Working Group at its meeting held in Vienna on 19 October 2010:
- (a) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants should be recognized as different crimes that require distinct legal, operational and policy responses;
- (b) States parties should clearly define trafficking in persons in their national law and policy in order to enable the full and effective implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, including its provisions on criminalization and, in particular, to ensure that victims of that crime have access to justice, including the ability to seek restitution or compensation;
- (c) In accordance with article 6, paragraph 6, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, States parties should ensure that their domestic legal systems contain measures that offer victims of trafficking in persons the possibility of obtaining compensation for damage suffered;
- (d) In accordance with article 6, paragraph 2, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, States parties should ensure that information on relevant court and administrative proceedings is provided, in appropriate cases, to victims of trafficking in persons, and that access to compensation is provided to victims of trafficking in persons;
- (e) States parties should facilitate the provision of legal assistance and information regarding legal assistance to victims of trafficking in order to represent their interests in criminal investigations, including in order to obtain compensation;
- (f) At the beginning of a penal investigation, States parties should endeavour to integrate a section dedicated to property and the possibility of seizing and confiscating goods obtained by criminal means. States parties should also be vigilant to protect themselves against all forms of organized insolvency;
- (g) States parties should ensure that the immigration status of the victim, the return of the victim to his or her home country or the absence of the victim from the jurisdiction for other reasons does not prevent the payment of compensation;
- (h) States parties should consider means of ensuring the availability of compensation, independent of a criminal case and regardless of whether the offender can be identified, sentenced and punished;
- (i) In fulfilling the requirements of article 6, paragraph 6, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, States parties should adopt at least one of the following options offering the possibility of victims obtaining compensation:
 - (i) Provisions allowing victims to sue offenders or others for civil damages;
 - (ii) Provisions allowing criminal courts to award criminal damages (that is, to order that compensation be paid by offenders to victims) or impose orders for compensation or restitution against persons convicted of offences;
 - (iii) Provisions establishing dedicated funds or schemes whereby victims can claim compensation from the State for injuries or damages suffered as a result of a criminal offence;

- (j) States should consider that court-ordered and/or state-funded compensation may include payment for or towards:
 - (i) Costs of medical, physical, psychological or psychiatric treatment required by the victim;
 - (ii) Costs of physical and occupational therapy or rehabilitation required by the victim;
 - (iii) Lost income and wages due according to national law and regulations regarding wages;
 - (iv) Legal fees and other costs or expenses incurred, including costs related to the participation of the victim in the criminal investigation and prosecution process;
 - (v) Payment for non-material damages resulting from moral, physical or psychological injury, emotional distress and pain and suffering of the victim as a result of the crime committed against him or her;
 - (vi) Any other costs or losses incurred by the victim as a direct result of being trafficked, as reasonably assessed by the court or state-funded compensation scheme.

V. Fifth meeting, 6 to 8 November 2013

- 1. States parties shall recognize the role of civil society, in accordance with domestic law, as partners in developing and implementing activities to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and, in particular, to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons.
- 2. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) should continue its work on key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in cooperation with Member States, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- 3. UNODC should continue its work on the interlinkages between crimes, including between trafficking in persons and corruption.
- 4. States parties may consider a wider range of investigative techniques and criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons by making use of related offences, so that, for example, law enforcement and prosecutors could be trained on the range of offences for which they can prosecute traffickers, such as offences under tax law and labour law, to ensure that training on investigative techniques and criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons is comprehensive.
- 5. States may consider using administrative tools and regulations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- 6. States parties should consider reviewing their legislation in order to ascertain that it is in compliance with the requirements of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, paying attention, in particular, to issues such as the irrelevance of victims' consent, and should amend their legislation as appropriate.

- 7. States parties should clarify and improve their legislation on the key concept of consent, where necessary, to reflect values of human dignity and so that practitioners can approach cases with confidence.
- 8. States parties are encouraged to consider good practices in relation to consent identified by some States, including: defining the key concept of consent, including actual or intended consent to exploitation; focusing in their legislation on the means used by the perpetrator, rather than on the victim developing guidelines for the police, for prosecutors and for other competent authorities; and paying particular attention in their legislation to the special vulnerabilities of various populations, such as children and people with diminished capacity, in relation to consent.
- 9. States parties should raise awareness among their relevant national authorities and other stakeholders, including, where appropriate, through training, in order to facilitate understanding of the irrelevance of consent in the identification of potential victims and the prosecution of suspected traffickers.
- 10. States parties should adopt comprehensive strategies to address the vulnerability of victims of trafficking in persons, including economic, social, educational and psychological vulnerability, as this may have an impact on the issue of consent.
- 11. States parties should consider taking into account the issue paper prepared by UNODC in order to clarify the key concept of abuse of a position of vulnerability and abuse of power, which are closely linked with the issue of consent.
- 12. States parties should research the root causes of trafficking in persons and address them with relevant measures, such as reducing the lack of equal opportunities, paying particular attention to persons vulnerable to trafficking, especially women and children, and opening up more employment and practical training opportunities.
- 13. States parties should adopt a multidisciplinary, comprehensive, human rights-based and targeted approach to reduce demand for all types of services and goods through which trafficking victims are exploited, including but not limited to exploitative sexual services, involving all relevant sectors at the national level, including relevant national non-governmental organizations, and supported by cooperation at the regional and international levels, involving relevant international and regional organizations.
- 14. States parties are encouraged to adopt a holistic approach to discourage demand for all types of services and goods through which trafficking victims are exploited, integrating in this approach awareness-raising campaigns and thorough assessments of the national situation, with the involvement of civil society.
- 15. States parties should encourage public-private partnerships bringing together national authorities, businesses and civil society, and share examples of good practices.
- 16. States parties, in their participation in the working group, are encouraged to take into account, as appropriate, the relevant experience of civil society.
- 17. States parties should consider taking measures to enforce labour and human rights standards through labour inspections and other relevant means, such as the development

of ethical codes of conduct, including for supply chains; to cooperate with labour unions; to establish national or regional business coalitions; and to strengthen partnership with civil society.

- 18. States parties should consider taking measures to regulate, register, license and monitor private recruitment and employment agencies, including prohibiting recruitment fees being charged to employees, to ensure that such agencies are not used to facilitate trafficking in persons.
- 19. States parties are encouraged to share information on good practices in reducing demand for all types of goods and services through which trafficking victims are exploited.
- 20. States parties are encouraged to develop, with the assistance of UNODC, targeted capacity-building programmes for government authorities and criminal justice practitioners, including members of law enforcement services and security forces, as well as training on their role in contributing to the reduction of demand for all types of goods and services through which victims of trafficking are exploited.
- 21. States parties should make timely use of the provisions on international cooperation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, including provisions, on witness protection, mutual legal assistance and extradition, to successfully combat trafficking in persons and, in particular, to reduce derived demand for all types of goods and services through which trafficking victims are exploited, by prosecuting suspected traffickers effectively.
- 22. States parties are encouraged to ensure that the assets derived from offences covered by the Trafficking in Persons Protocol or used to commit the crime are seized and the proceeds of the crime are confiscated, for example by adding trafficking in persons as a predicate offence for money-laundering in national law and, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic legislation, using such proceeds to assist and compensate victims.
- 23. States parties should adopt measures that are demand-driven, such as penalizing persons who engage in the sexual exploitation of children abroad and educating the young generation.
- 24. States are encouraged to consider establishing jurisdiction in line with article 15 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to prosecute instances of human trafficking committed by their nationals abroad.
- 25. States parties should review policies and procurement practices and, as appropriate, adopt new measures to prevent demand for labour, services or goods that foster the exploitation of others.
- 26. States parties should take into consideration in their measures to reduce demand the links between trafficking in persons and other crimes, such as corruption and other related offences.
- 27. States parties should ensure confidentiality in order to protect victims of trafficking in persons, in accordance with domestic law.

- 28. States parties should ensure that measures are in place to provide victims with sufficient information to make them aware of their actual condition and to prevent revictimization.
- 29. States parties should take into consideration new methods of recruiting victims of trafficking in persons and take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns and specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners on issues such as the use of the Internet by traffickers, in particular to recruit children.
- 30. States parties are encouraged to improve preventive measures and discourage the demand that fosters exploitation in all its forms and leads to trafficking in persons, with a view to the elimination of that demand, and accordingly to raise awareness of the negative impact of clients, consumers or users of trafficking in persons, inasmuch as it is they who are responsible for generating demand.
- 31. States parties are encouraged to consider among other measures, within the framework of their respective national laws, the application of sanctions to consumers or users who intentionally and knowingly use the services of victims of trafficking in persons for any kind of exploitation.
- 32. States parties should impose sentences in cases of trafficking in persons that are commensurate with the seriousness of the crime, in order to deter criminals.
- 33. Recalling the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto and taking into consideration articles 32 and 37 of the Convention, States parties and UNODC should continue to promote the full implementation of the Convention and of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, with a view to identifying existing gaps, challenges and priorities.
- 34. States parties, in consultation with the private sector and civil society, are encouraged to enact legal and appropriate measures to combat trafficking in persons and ensure protection and assistance to victims.
- 35. States parties are encouraged to ensure, in line with their domestic legislation, that victims of trafficking are not penalized for unlawful acts committed by them in the course of, or in relation to, being trafficked.
- 36. States parties are encouraged to consider defining exploitation in their national legislation.
- 37. States parties are encouraged to have necessary guidelines for victim rescue, with a view to guiding law enforcement authorities to take necessary measures, avoiding revictimization and harmonizing criteria for action.
- 38. In addressing forms of exploitation that are not mentioned in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, States parties are encouraged to keep in mind the principles of mutual legal assistance and extradition, which require dual criminality, and to explore ways for requesting States to engage in informal consultations with requested States to ensure that this does not generate legal challenges in addressing trafficking in persons.

- 39. States parties are encouraged to increase their knowledge of forms of exploitation not mentioned in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through researching the cultural, social, economic and development factors that may foster exploitation, including by taking into account the work of the Special Rapporteurs on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and on contemporary forms of slavery, and to inform UNODC of instances of trafficking in persons involving forms of exploitation that are not mentioned in the Protocol, in consultation with relevant partners, as appropriate.
- 40. UNODC should allocate sufficient attention to reports by Member States on forms of exploitation not mentioned in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol in its biennial global report on trafficking in persons and in its relevant publications.
- 41. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons requested the Secretariat to prepare and maintain a consolidated record of all the recommendations adopted by the Working Group.
- 42. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons proposed that States parties continue to do their best to implement the pertinent recommendations of the Working Group as adopted by the Conference of the Parties.
- 43. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons recommended to the Conference that the topic of the role of recruitment agencies and recruitment fees in trafficking in persons be considered at future meetings of the Working Group.
- 44. The Working Group on Trafficking in Persons recommended that the Conference of the Parties, at its seventh session, should consider initiating discussions regarding the possibility that the Working Group develop and follow a workplan for its future meetings, bearing in mind the proposals for future work already adopted by the Working Group (CTOC/COP/WG.4/2011/8, sect. II.A.5, Proposed areas for future work).

VI. Sixth meeting, 16 to 18 November 2015

- 1. States whether countries of origin of or destination for migrant workers should enact legislation and administrative measures to combat fraudulent recruitment, and regulate, register, license and monitor private recruitment agencies, including through considering, as appropriate, the establishment of a dedicated public institution in that regard.
- 2. States should consider prohibiting charging workers fees, directly or indirectly, for their recruitment and placement and reviewing public procurement practices in order to avoid trafficking in persons.
- 3. In an effort to reduce the victimization of migrant workers, States should develop awareness campaigns and disseminate information materials on the rights of such workers in accordance with applicable domestic laws and regulations. States should also consider establishing a grievance mechanism or hotline and relevant agencies for migrant workers, to enable the reporting of cases of exploitation or abuse.

- 4. States should consider requiring recruitment agencies and employers to provide contracts or, where possible, an explanation of contracts to migrant workers in a language they understand; prohibiting the switching of contracts that may create a climate of trafficking in persons; ensuring that workers are not denied access to their identity documents; requiring employers to pay for transportation expenses for workers to return to their home countries upon completion or early termination of their contract; and giving workers the right to complain. In accordance with their obligations under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, States should give workers access to consular offices in case of problems.
- 5. States should encourage employers to hire migrant workers directly where possible, or to use only the services of registered and authorized agencies, or through approved agencies, to prevent fraudulent and exploitative recruitment practices.
- 6. States should foster State-to-State cooperation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and the exploitation of migrant workers, including, where appropriate, through bilateral and multilateral agreements.
- 7. States should encourage cooperation between the public and private sectors and encourage businesses to act with due diligence in the recruitment of migrant workers, in accordance with internationally recognized standards to prevent trafficking in persons.
- 8. States should foster multi-stakeholder cooperation, including between labour inspectors and trade unions, if applicable, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and the exploitation of migrant workers.
- 9. States should also implement capacity-building to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, through appropriate training programmes for labour inspectors, health-care workers, social service providers, educators and law enforcers and practitioners who may come into contact with victims of trafficking in persons.
- 10. States may consider instructing and training, where needed, their relevant diplomatic and/or consular staff and may consider, where possible, establishing a network of specialized attachés to prevent trafficking in persons.
- 11. States should enhance their efforts to increase the availability and quality of statistical data, to analyse such data and to produce comparable information to be shared at the local, regional and global levels. Such information should identify trends and patterns, support best practices, identify needs for technical assistance and contribute to the formulation of policies, including the adoption of measures that discourage the demand for all forms of exploitation, and programmes and other related measures to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- 12. In establishing or strengthening national coordination mechanisms, States should consider involving a broad range of stakeholders responsible for, among others, justice, law enforcement, immigration, finance, taxation, social services, media, gender equality, legal services, health, foreign affairs, asylum, education, academia, business and labour, as well as relevant civil society and survivors of trafficking in persons.

- 13. Parties should consider carrying out an analysis of the effectiveness and functions of their national coordination mechanisms to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, in order to identify technical assistance needs.
- 14. The topic of the effectiveness and functions of different national coordination mechanisms should be considered at future meetings of the Working Group.
- 15. The Conference should consider all options to ensure that reliable and consistent information about the effective implementation of the Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is provided by States, with a view to identifying gaps and needs for technical assistance and highlighting successful experiences and good practices.
- 16. States should consider the possibility of enhancing their efforts to establish appropriate measures, including, where appropriate, the participation of relevant civil society, to monitor through appropriate indicators national policies and plans to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- 17. States should design multidisciplinary and evidence-based policies and programmes, action plans, guidance and other strategies in order to effectively prevent and combat trafficking in persons, with the input of relevant civil society and survivors of trafficking in persons, whenever possible.
- 18. States should consider developing an integrated national or regional database on trafficking in persons that includes data on cases, trends and patterns, best practices and modus operandi, with a view to helping analyse the situation on the ground, identifying challenges and gaps and formulating a comprehensive policy on combating trafficking in persons.
- 19. States are encouraged to clearly define key concepts to establish the parameters of what constitutes the crime of trafficking in persons in their national legislation, which should be flexible enough to capture the various forms of trafficking, but not make the crime unduly onerous to establish. States should train all relevant stakeholders accordingly, in order to facilitate a common understanding and consistent implementation of such key concepts, including, but not limited to, abuse of a position of vulnerability, consent and exploitation.
- 20. The Secretariat should continue the further development and dissemination of tools to clarify key concepts and collect legislation, case law and guidelines on such concepts, including in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Human Trafficking Case Law Database and in the knowledge management portal known as the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC). In addition, the Secretariat should develop a list of indicators on different forms of exploitation, building upon existing tools.
- 21. States parties shall endeavour to fully implement the existing international and regional legal frameworks pertaining to trafficking in persons and related offences.
- 22. States should consider a gender approach and the best interests of the child when applying key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

VII. Seventh meeting, 6 to 8 September 2017

- 1. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the following recommendations for adoption:
- (a) Support collaboration, where possible, with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to raise awareness on activities related to human trafficking, especially the identification of victims;
- (b) Work to gather relevant and corroborative evidence, for example, by means of proactive investigations, as opposed to relying solely on victim testimony, with the aim of reducing the burden on victims as the only source of evidence;
- (c) Place victims in safe and secure shelters or other suitable accommodation without delay, unless circumstances indicate that doing so might affect the security and safety of the victims;
- (d) Consider options, where possible, to provide victims with suitable employment, educational and training opportunities, according to domestic law, in accordance with article 6, paragraph 3 (d) of the Protocol;
- (e) Where possible, consider the implications that media involvement, including the timing of exposure of investigations, may have on both victims and investigations;
- (f) Reiterate its previous recommendation for States parties to consider providing a sufficient period of time during which victims may receive appropriate assistance to make a decision about their possible cooperation with law enforcement authorities and their participation in a judicial process;
- (g) Consider establishing national databases for information-sharing between government agencies on trafficking in persons cases, subject to privacy considerations;
- (h) Promote the appropriate exchange of information, domestically and internationally, among criminal justice practitioners, including prosecutors, investigators, police officers, judges and task forces, regarding human trafficking cases;
- (i) Where possible, lend support to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons;
- (j) Take into account the value of regional groupings that include source, transit and destination countries as a means of enhancing cross-border cooperation in trafficking in persons cases.
- 2. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the following recommendations for adoption:
- (a) Provide support for victims which is independent of their immigration status and of whether victims are supporting a criminal investigation or prosecution;
- (b) Consider, in line with their domestic legislation and prosecutorial discretion, not punishing or prosecuting trafficked persons for unlawful acts committed by them as a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons or in cases where they were compelled to commit such unlawful acts;
- (c) Ensure that the protection of victims in appropriate housing is gender-specific, taking into account the differing vulnerabilities of women, men and children, and where

necessary, the provision of appropriate psychological assistance, including, in appropriate cases, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society;

- (d) Ensure the availability of interpretation into languages victims can understand, including, to the extent possible, specific local dialects and sign languages, when providing assistance to victims, when necessary, in collaboration with the diplomatic representation of the country of the victim, and promote support to guarantee that persons with disabilities have a full understanding of their legal rights and of the judicial processes they participate in;
- (e) Promote the cross-border provision of protection and assistance among countries of origin, transit and destination;
- (f) Consider further strengthening the capacities of diplomatic and consular personnel to be able to recognize, and provide assistance to, victims of trafficking in persons;
- (g) Ensure that measures are in place for the proper coordination of assistance and protection opportunities available to victims, including throughout the criminal justice process, and that all relevant stakeholders receive proper training regarding these measures;
- (h) Further develop informative material for the purposes of explaining to victims their rights, avenues for assistance, and how the criminal justice process operates, in accessible terms:
- (i) Develop the capacity of front-line responders, including humanitarian personnel, to identify victims of trafficking in persons, in a timely manner, within mixed migration flows;
- (j) Ensure that victims have access to legal representation, including pro bono legal representation;
- (k) Ensure that national authorities devote further attention to addressing trafficking in persons in conflict and humanitarian emergencies, in coordination and in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including by enhancing the capacity of front-line workers and other relevant officials to identify victims;
- (l) Take into account all victims' perspectives in policymaking and ensure equal access to assistance and protection measures and services;
- (m) Consider establishing networks of interpreters who could be called upon throughout the criminal justice process;
- (n) Consider measures to address cases of involvement in trafficking in persons by terrorist groups, including measures to protect and assist victims, in order to further develop effective criminal justice responses;
- (o) Recognize trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants as different phenomena that require different legislation and policy responses.

VIII. Eighth meeting, 2 and 3 July 2018

1. States parties should:

- (a) Discourage the use of detention centres and camps for the housing of victims of trafficking in persons; those countries that refer trafficking in persons victims to detention centres or camps should ensure that such victims remain housed in those facilities for the shortest possible period of time;
- (b) Consider informing victims of trafficking in persons as soon as practicable once they have been identified of their rights in line with domestic legislation, including, where appropriate, their right to legal aid, information, including access to consular assistance for foreign victims when requested, and due consideration for compensation;
- (c) Consider, in line with domestic legislation and prosecutorial discretion, not punishing or prosecuting trafficked persons for unlawful acts committed by them as a direct consequence of their situation as trafficked persons or in cases where they were compelled to commit unlawful acts;
- (d) Provide victim protection measures in criminal justice proceedings, including by encouraging the use of video testimony, where appropriate and in line with domestic legislation;
- (e) Promote cooperation, training and the sharing of information among State authorities, civil society, survivors of trafficking in persons, humanitarian agencies and the private sector, where appropriate and in line with domestic legislation;
- (f) Conduct self-assessments to identify the most prevalent and emerging forms of exploitation so as to develop targeted prevention measures;
- (g) Raise awareness about risks and publicize avenues of assistance, including help-lines, available to victims of trafficking in persons;
- (h) Enhance efforts to counter trafficking in persons in humanitarian settings, including by developing indicators that can be used at the ground and policy levels;
- (i) Consider the role of modern technology and data in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including during the reflection and recovery periods; at a future meeting of the Working Group, the issue of how States identify victims and use confiscated proceeds of offences involving trafficking in persons should be considered;
- (j) Request that, resources permitting, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provide requesting countries with technical assistance and resources for capacity-building so that they can conduct comprehensive needs assessments on preventing and combating trafficking in persons;
- (k) Review and amend, where necessary, domestic laws and other measures to provide assistance and support to victims of trafficking in persons, including to victims who are non-nationals;
- (1) Integrate trauma-informed and gender-, age- and human rights-sensitive approaches to measures aimed at protecting victims of trafficking in persons that take into account the multifaceted effects of such trafficking on different groups in society, and the specific vulnerabilities of women and children;

- (m) Strengthen the capacity of front-line actors, through the provision of adequate resources and training, to identify victims of trafficking in persons;
- (n) Ensure that victims' needs, including medical care, counselling and shelter, are appropriately prioritized;
- (o) Respect the rights of all victims, in particular children and those who have been subjected to physical and/or psychological trauma, and ensure that measures are in place to address their needs, including measures to support their participation, where necessary, in criminal proceedings;
- (p) Train law enforcement officers to identify victims of trafficking in persons and recognize the importance of victim assistance and protection as critical aspects of the criminal justice response, regardless of whether an investigation and/or prosecution takes place;
- (q) Take measures to identify possible links between trafficking in persons and other types of organized crime, including cases related to terrorism.

2. States parties should:

- (a) Develop processes to coordinate the return and protection of victims who either cannot stay in the country of destination or choose to return to their country of residence, including, as far as possible, monitoring or providing support for reintegration to avoid retrafficking;
- (b) Establish and further develop partnerships with the diplomatic missions of the country of residence of victims of trafficking in persons;
- (c) Endeavour to provide expert interpretation and language assistance to victims of trafficking in persons, including through international cooperation where necessary, and endeavour to protect those who provide linguistic assistance from threats and intimidation, when required;
- (d) Ensure that persons with disabilities who are victims of trafficking in persons are offered support so that they are made aware of their rights and their role in any relevant procedures;
- (e) Continue to improve international, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation, whether formal or informal, share best practices to address the emerging trends in and nature of trafficking in persons and the impact that it has on the rights and needs of victims, and avoid action that could discourage international cooperation;
- (f) Promote effective cooperation and the exchange of information on services, including protection services, and prevention measures on a timely basis between countries of origin, transit and destination, including appropriate bilateral or multilateral coordination of law enforcement authorities and cross-border authorities, in line with domestic law, and measures on the recruitment and transportation of victims;
- (g) Where appropriate, facilitate the provision of culturally and linguistically appropriate protection services to victims of trafficking in persons as well as to their immediate family members;
- (h) Where appropriate, take measures to reunite victims of trafficking in persons with their immediate family members, especially in the case of child trafficking victims, taking into consideration the best interests of the child.

IX. Ninth meeting, 9 to 11 September 2019

- 1. States parties should seek to effectively cooperate with victim assistance service providers and consider developing stronger witness protection measures, as part of a multi-disciplinary strategy to counter trafficking in persons.
- 2. States parties should consider developing toolkits for the design and implementation of national coordination or referral mechanisms.
- 3. States parties should, in accordance with national legislation, on a voluntary basis, share best practices detailing the roles and responsibilities of civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations, such as community-based organizations and faith-based organizations, in referral mechanisms, to support policies, including by promoting a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach, bearing in mind the age and gender of victims of trafficking in persons or other vulnerable members of society.
- 4. States parties should consider ways to strengthen cooperation with relevant non-governmental or international organizations, including those which are service providers, to help build capacity to deliver trafficking in persons-related prevention measures, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups.
- 5. States parties should consider developing and reviewing on a regular basis their national plans of action and legal frameworks on combating trafficking in persons.
- 6. States parties should carry out relevant research involving academic and other institutions on new trends in trafficking in persons, including voluntary, trauma-informed interviews with victims to develop or adjust prevention strategies.
- 7. States parties should consider consulting victims and survivors of trafficking in persons for both sexual and labour exploitation, members of at-risk groups, civil society, law enforcement, prosecutors and front-line service providers in identifying, developing and adapting strategies and initiatives to counter trafficking in persons.
- 8. States parties should, wherever possible, incorporate the input of survivors in the development of policies which seek to eradicate trafficking in persons and support survivors to ensure a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach.
- 9. States parties should consider developing or improving programmes to provide safe and secure shelter or other suitable accommodation for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, so that victims who have been rescued do not face a situation of homelessness or revictimization.
- 10. States parties are encouraged, consistent with domestic and international law, to establish joint investigation teams for specialized investigations and to respond to extradition and mutual legal assistance requests in an efficient way in responding to cases of trafficking in persons, including in relation to the proceeds of crime.
- 11. States parties should make every possible effort to improve the exchange of information, consistent with the obligations set out in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Trafficking

in Persons Protocol, on criminal networks engaging in trafficking in persons and on the methods used by transnational criminal groups to carry out these crimes.

- 12. States parties should integrate prevention measures, including "know your rights" information materials, education and awareness materials, into services for people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as children who have been abused or neglected and homeless individuals. States parties should also make efforts to reach out to their migrant populations, including guest workers, and to other individuals at higher risk of trafficking in persons so that they are aware of their rights and are thus less likely to be exploited.
- 13. States parties should develop awareness-raising campaigns focused on front-line responders, including social service providers, who are likely to identify victims of trafficking in persons.
- 14. States parties should strengthen the capacity of the media to understand and report on trafficking in persons as a standard practice, taking into account their significant influence on the population.
- 15. States parties should develop model strategies to support successful prosecution and should consider convening meetings to share experiences, practices and challenges in this regard.
- 16. States parties should provide training to security and military personnel, including those on peacekeeping missions, to enable them to respond effectively to trafficking in persons.
- 17. The Working Group should address the following topics as priorities at its future meetings: (a) effective strategies to support victims and/or witnesses in the criminal justice system; (b) guidance on the issue of appropriate criminal justice responses to victims who have been compelled to commit offences as a result of their being trafficked; (c) common challenges associated with the investigation and/or prosecution of trafficking in persons offences; (d) best practices in the establishment and operation of joint investigation teams and specialized prosecution units; (e) successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons, and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons; (f) how the media can support the development, implementation and assessment of anti-trafficking responses; (g) measures to strengthen procurement policies at the national, regional and international levels; and (h) including the private sector, civil society and victim input in responses to trafficking in persons.
- 18. States parties should share experience in the development of internationally aligned policies, legislation and guidance to incentivize businesses to develop, implement and report on long-term strategies for assessing risks, identifying priority areas and delivering targeted due diligence to protect vulnerable workers.
- 19. States parties should work in partnership with businesses, civil society and public sector organizations to develop policies and legislation that drive effective and targeted action to address the risks of forced labour in supply chains.
- 20. States parties should consider encouraging regional and international organizations to take measures to prevent and address trafficking in persons in their supply chains, such as reviewing their procurement practices, and to provide gender-inclusive and age-sensitive

training to their relevant personnel, especially management, on trafficking in persons and its risks in the supply chains of regional and international organizations.

- 21. States parties are encouraged to consider the "Principles to guide government action to combat human trafficking in global supply chains", which were developed by some States to raise awareness in order to improve public procurement policies, to deter fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices and to harmonize policy frameworks in preventing trafficking in persons in their supply chains.
- 22. States parties should encourage businesses to engage in due diligence practices to prevent forced labour in global supply chains and to eliminate practices that put migrant workers at greater risk of forced labour, such as worker-paid recruitment fees.
- 23. States parties and international organizations should implement measures to prevent and address trafficking in persons in government procurement processes.
- 24. States parties should take measures to counter the criminal misuse of cybertechnologies in facilitating the exploitation of victims of trafficking in persons, while recognizing the potential of such technologies to prevent trafficking in persons.
- 25. States parties should comprehensively investigate, in accordance with domestic law, including through financial investigation, all individuals suspected of being involved in trafficking in persons, in particular those who benefit financially.
- 26. States parties should, to the extent possible, attempt to ensure the effective protection and security of potential victims of trafficking in persons.
- 27. States parties should consider creating oversight mechanisms, such as in-person registration programmes, within their ministries for foreign affairs, as appropriate, to prevent trafficking in persons or other abuses of domestic workers employed by foreign mission personnel and to inform the workers of how to seek help if needed.
- 28. States parties are encouraged to train relevant personnel before they serve overseas to familiarize them with all the forms of trafficking in persons that they may encounter, with a focus on preventing and addressing domestic servitude and ensuring the fair treatment of domestic workers. States parties are also encouraged to provide visa applicants with information, preferably in their native languages, about the different forms of trafficking in persons, their rights and the available assistance resources.
- 29. States parties should hold specific workshops, seminars or courses at the national, regional and international levels on the role of diplomatic and consular personnel in responding to trafficking in persons.
- 30. States parties should build the capacity of diplomatic and consular staff to identify potential victims of trafficking in persons, taking into consideration international legal obligations.
- 31. States parties should, whenever possible, incorporate the input of victims and/or civil society organizations in the development of training materials for diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers on indicators of trafficking in persons in order to ensure a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach.

- 32. States parties should consider providing training on a regular basis to diplomatic and consular agents in relation to trafficking in persons.
- 33. States parties should consider creating a mechanism for employees of diplomatic households according to which they are encouraged to appear in person, if possible, in the framework of a face-to-face interview, before the host State authorities, where they are informed of their rights and obligations and are told who to contact in case of any difficulties.
- 34. States parties should support domestic employees in learning to speak one of the official languages of the host State, or alternatively a language broadly understood in the host State, to enable them to communicate with authorities and to facilitate their social integration.
- 35. States parties are encouraged to require that the salary of a domestic worker employed by diplomatic or consular staff be paid into a bank account opened in the domestic worker's name.
- 36. States parties should strengthen the assistance provided to victims of trafficking in persons through cooperation between the diplomatic and consular missions of different countries.
- 37. States parties should consider encouraging all relevant government entities to cooperate with the diplomatic and consular missions accredited in their host country, in accordance with their domestic law and international law, in order to provide optimal assistance and protection services for victims of trafficking in persons, facilitate processes, adapt to national realities and overcome any legal or administrative obstacles.
- 38. States parties should explore the possibility of signing bilateral cooperation agreements to ensure fluid and timely communication.
- 39. States parties may be encouraged to consider implementing, as appropriate and in compliance with their obligations, consular notification to protect the rights of foreign nationals to due process.

X. Tenth meeting, 10 and 11 September 2020

- 1. At the tenth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in Vienna on 10 and 11 September 2020, in a hybrid format (in person and online), the Working Group, noting that it was unable to complete line-by-line negotiations of the draft recommendations proposed during the meeting, agreed to allow delegates to share comments on the draft recommendations in a time-bound, post-meeting process.
- 2. The Working Group decided to entrust the Chair, in consultation with the Secretariat, with finalizing, in the days following the meeting, and applying a process to facilitate and gather comments from delegations and to make the outcome of the process available to the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention.

XI. Eleventh meeting, 12 and 13 October 2021

- 1. States parties should ensure that domestic legal frameworks provide for the effective investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated trafficking in persons, including by being flexible enough to keep pace with technological developments and allowing for the effective use of electronic evidence, in line with the fundamental principles of their domestic law.
- 2. States parties are encouraged to seek to enhance operational responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in persons, especially women and children, including by:
- (a) Strengthening the expertise and capacity of law enforcement agencies to use new technological tools to conduct efficient and lawful investigations and operations on digital devices and in cyberspace, including through the use of digital forensic tools and operations on the dark web;
- (b) Establishing or developing specialized law enforcement functions with regard to cyber-enabled crime, including related trafficking in persons, and/or enhancing cooperation between existing cyber-related and anti-trafficking functions;
- (c) Undertaking financial investigations of all trafficking cases, including online trafficking cases, to confiscate any proceeds of crime and property in a manner consistent with the Convention, and considering utilizing them to support victims of trafficking for their recovery;
- (d) Providing for appropriate protection and assistance schemes for victims of trafficking in persons that take into account age, gender and the special needs of victims, as well as the harm caused by crime, including trauma, and that are informed by persons who are or have been victims of trafficking in persons.
- 3. States parties are encouraged to ensure that access to and use of technology by law enforcement authorities is consistent with domestic law and relevant and applicable international human rights obligations.
- 4. States parties should, consistent with domestic legal frameworks, aim to improve safety standards in cyberspace and in the digital services and products that children may use, to provide preventative age-appropriate education for children, youth and parents, to seek cooperation with Internet service providers and other relevant technology partners to lower the risks of recruitment and exploitation of children through the Internet and to encourage the companies to design and monitor their products with a view to improving safety and privacy online.
- 5. States parties should enhance subregional, regional and international cooperation to develop policies, share intelligence and conduct joint and parallel investigations to prevent and counter trafficking in persons enabled by information and communications technology, in accordance with their domestic law.
- 6. States parties should encourage, facilitate and expand, where relevant and appropriate, and in accordance with their domestic law, effective partnerships and cooperation between relevant stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and the private sector, especially technology companies, to harness innovation, strengthen cooperation and enhance the use of technology opportunities in preventing and combating trafficking in persons.

- 7. States parties should, in accordance with their domestic law, encourage technology companies and other service providers to:
- (a) Develop tools to better detect and more efficiently analyse data concerning trafficking in persons activities online, including child trafficking;
- (b) Report suspected incidents of trafficking in persons online to law enforcement in compliance with human rights obligations and the right to privacy in international law, and enable law enforcement agencies, acting with appropriate legal authority, to access the data;
- (c) Ensure that material used for the online recruitment and exploitation of trafficked persons, including online sexual exploitation, is removed in a timely and accurate manner from online platforms to avoid revictimization and continuing exploitation.
- 8. With regard to research, States parties should consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to undertake data collection, analysis and capacity-building, and to disseminate promising practices related to the use of modern technologies to address trafficking in persons.
- 9. Recalling article 30 of the Convention, which provides, inter alia, that States parties shall make concrete efforts to the extent possible and in coordination with each other, as well as with international and regional organizations, to enhance financial and material assistance to support the efforts of developing countries to fight transnational organized crime effectively and to help them implement the Convention successfully, and to provide technical assistance to developing countries and countries with economies in transition to assist them in meeting their needs for the implementation of the Convention, Member States are encouraged to provide the widest measure of technical assistance, within their means, particularly to developing countries upon their request and consistent with their needs and priorities.
- 10. States parties are encouraged to work with public bodies and relevant regional and international organizations to prevent and address trafficking in persons in government procurement, for example by:
- (a) Setting out all steps that public bodies might take throughout the commercial life cycle;
- (b) Requiring the publication by companies of transparency statements and relevant reports concerning exploitation in supply chains and remedial actions taken in response, or requiring such documents as part of the procurement process;
- (c) Ensuring that contractual clauses in tender processes advance responsible recruitment by prohibiting activities associated with trafficking in persons, such as charging workers recruitment fees, the confiscation of immigration documents, non-compliance with local labour laws and the use of misleading or fraudulent recruitment practices.
- 11. States parties are encouraged to consider, where appropriate, enacting measures which require commercial entities to establish and report on due diligence measures to prevent trafficking in persons from occurring in their procurement practices and supply chains, and to otherwise create incentives for the private sector to eliminate trafficking in persons in their supply chains.

- 12. States parties are encouraged to cooperate with trade unions to establish and monitor prevention plans to mitigate the risks of trafficking in persons in public as well as private sector procurement activities.
- 13. States parties are encouraged to develop relevant tools and provide gender-responsive and age-sensitive training to relevant stakeholders, including labour inspectors and law enforcement authorities, in partnership with the private sector, as appropriate, in order to build their capacity to respond to specific risks associated with trafficking in persons in supply chains and strengthen compliance with existing national regulations.
- 14. States parties are encouraged to consider establishing or strengthening mechanisms to enforce consumer protection laws, increase related compliance measures and publish information regarding sanctions against entities for trafficking-related violations associated with their procurement activities.
- 15. States parties are encouraged to seek to address trafficking in persons in global supply chains, including by developing common public procurement standards, compliance requirements or codes of conduct and by harmonizing frameworks, including those guiding anti-trafficking efforts and sustainable procurement.
- 16. States parties are encouraged to use existing international policy tools, such as the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons issue brief on the role of public procurement in preventing trafficking in persons, to inform the development of their respective policies, strategies and legislation to strengthen procurement practices.

XII. Twelfth meeting, 29 and 30 June 2022

- 1. States parties are 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 and, where appropriate, provide access to remedies if they are punished or prosecuted for such acts and, accordingly, establish, as appropriate, domestic laws, guidelines or policies that espouse these principles.
- 2. States parties should make efforts to provide and promote victim-centred support, with a trauma-informed approach to trafficking victims, that protects their lives, liberties and security, and that builds trust between law enforcement and victims and supports their effective participation in prosecutions of traffickers, noting that the provision of support to victims should not be conditional on such participation.
- 3. States parties should make efforts to provide specialized training for all criminal justice practitioners, including investigators, prosecutors and other front-line officers, as well as providers of social services, bearing in mind the non-punishment principle and the need for trauma-informed support for trafficking victims, taking into account different factors, including age, gender, culture and disability, and special needs, noting that such training can minimize their retraumatization and ensure an understanding of the impact of trauma on the individual person.

- 4. States parties are encouraged to assess their policies and procedures with a view to eliminating any practices that might contribute to revictimization, and in this regard should consult, as appropriate, with a wide range of relevant stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society, such as individuals who have been victims of trafficking in persons.
- 5. States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, should consider taking steps to develop and integrate a victim-centred approach to enhance the proactive and timely identification of trafficking victims and promote such practices through regional and international organizations.
- 6. States parties may wish to provide information on the application of the non-punishment principle, case law where relevant, and related challenges, good practices and lessons learned, for inclusion in the Sharing Electronic Resources and Laws on Crime (SHERLOC) knowledge management portal of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).
- 7. State parties, bearing in mind article 6 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, should:
- (a) Consider implementing measures to provide access to free legal assistance to trafficking victims, where appropriate, in connection with both criminal and non-criminal justice proceedings;
- (b) Ensure, in accordance with their domestic law, that processes are established for victims to seek access to relevant documents and information in connection with such proceedings;
- (c) Ensure that their domestic legal systems contain measures that offer victims the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered.
- 8. States parties, in accordance with their domestic law, should promote, consolidate and disseminate specialized anti-trafficking in persons expertise, including by establishing, as appropriate, dedicated prosecution units and by providing specialized training for professionals in the criminal justice system, such as judges, prosecutors, law enforcement personnel and other relevant actors.
- 9. States parties are encouraged to promote coordinated cross-border investigations and regional and international collaboration to strengthen the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons and the sharing of good practices, including, as appropriate, by appointing liaison officers, magistrates or prosecutors or promoting exchange programmes for law enforcement officials between countries of origin, transit and destination, and to encourage regional and international organizations to support States parties' efforts in this regard, when requested.
- 10. States parties should consider establishing, in accordance with their domestic law, joint investigative teams and, as appropriate, parallel investigation teams, including by making use of existing international and regional coordination mechanisms, in order to improve the investigation and prosecution of trafficking in persons cases, while protecting and assisting trafficking victims, with full respect for their human rights and due process guarantees.
- 11. States parties are encouraged to consider, within their means, deploying in the early stages of investigations specialized prosecutors with expertise in victim-centred and trauma-informed approaches, organized crime, international cooperation and victim

identification to work closely with investigators, to provide direction and build strong prosecution cases, with full respect for human rights and due process guarantees.

- 12. States parties are encouraged, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their domestic law, to cooperate with United Nations entities and other relevant international and regional organizations to facilitate international cooperation in the fight against trafficking in persons, including, upon request, to identify and address gaps in legislative frameworks that hamper effective international cooperation in criminal matters and to strengthen anti-trafficking in persons laws, guidelines and policies, to better prevent and combat this crime.
- 13. States parties should encourage collaboration between specialized networks of prosecutors and specialized law enforcement networks to facilitate information exchange, including in the framework of joint investigation teams, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.
- 14. States parties, if they have not done so, are urged to nominate, without undue delay, their focal points and governmental experts for participation in the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, within the timetable indicated in its procedures and rules and in the guidelines for conducting the country reviews, as well as to ensure the accessibility and availability of the nominated focal points and governmental experts.

XIII. Thirteenth meeting, 2 and 3 October 2023

- 1. States parties are encouraged to effectively integrate efforts to respond to trafficking in persons and related corruption, including by strengthening cooperation between anti-trafficking and anti-corruption units and by incorporating measures to address issues related to corruption in all anti-trafficking strategies.
- 2. States parties, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems and applicable international obligations, are encouraged to enhance the investigation of corruption in the context of trafficking in persons, including by encouraging the lodging of complaints against corruption, initiating proactive information-based investigations that consider the possible involvement of public officials in trafficking cases, and undertaking comprehensive criminal investigations, with respect for due process, against officials alleged to have facilitated, abetted or otherwise committed trafficking.
- 3. States parties are encouraged to consider increasing the penalty for public officials who are found guilty of trafficking in persons or related offences.
- 4. States parties are encouraged to include in their training of anti-trafficking officials measures to build the capacity of those officials to prevent, detect, report and prosecute corrupt practices related to trafficking in persons.
- 5. States parties are encouraged to adopt measures to raise awareness and to develop public sensitivity by including corruption-related information in the relevant prevention activities and communication campaigns related to trafficking in persons.

- 6. States parties are encouraged to undertake systematic data collection on the crime of trafficking in persons and related crimes, in order to effectively assess the impact of corrupt practices in the context of trafficking in persons and also analyse the outcome of anti-corruption measures in such cases, in accordance with national legislation.
- 7. States parties are encouraged to strengthen bilateral, regional and international cooperation and national coordination, including information exchange, mutual legal assistance, technical assistance and capacity-building, to more effectively prevent and counter trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of organ removal, the use of corruption as a facilitator of that crime.
- 8. States parties are encouraged to strengthen efforts to prevent child trafficking, including through consideration of the following, in line with the fundamental principles of their legal systems:
- (a) Enhancing and facilitating the availability and flexibility of regular migration pathways and sharing such information with relevant stakeholders;
- (b) Establishing standardized inter-agency measures for the interviewing and referral of unaccompanied, separated and undocumented migrant children, in particular in border areas, providing for their access to national child protection structures regardless of their migration status, and always taking into consideration the best interests of the child;
- (c) Providing for the appointment of legal guardians or representatives to enhance the protection of child victims;
- (d) Strengthening responses that engage all sectors, as appropriate, such as police and prosecutors, health care, education, sports, businesses, technology, trade unions, families, community or Indigenous leaders, media, civil society, religious institutions, and child protection and social protection systems.
- 9. States parties are encouraged to enhance efforts to prevent and counter child trafficking online through:
- (a) Increased awareness-raising with regard to online safety and risks and the availability and use of standardized referral measures;
- (b) Introducing appropriate measures aimed at requesting online platforms to quickly remove child sexual abuse material, including material related to child trafficking, to avoid the revictimization of child victims;
- (c) Ensuring that national laws cover all trafficking in persons offences specified by the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, regardless of whether or not the offences are conducted or facilitated online, and ensuring that those efforts address the distinct challenges presented by such offences;
- (d) Undertaking awareness-raising campaigns to prevent and combat the abuse and exploitation of children, especially through child trafficking;
- (e) Calling upon online platforms and social media providers, where appropriate, to facilitate and contribute to the efforts of States parties in cases of online child sexual exploitation and abuse, especially through child trafficking.

B. Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime at its first 11 sessions

I. First session, 28 June to 8 July 2004

Decision 1/5

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:

- (a) Decides to carry out the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁶ with respect to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention,⁷ by, inter alia, establishing a programme of work that it will review at regular intervals;
- (b) Decides also that, for its second session, the programme of work with respect to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol will be as follows:
 - (i) Consideration of the basic adaptation of national legislation in accordance with the Protocol;
 - (ii) Commencement of the examination of criminalization legislation and difficulties encountered in the implementation of article 5 of the Protocol;
 - (iii) Enhancing international cooperation and developing technical assistance to overcome difficulties identified in the implementation of the Protocol;
 - (iv) Exchange of views and experience regarding the protection of victims and preventive measures, gained primarily in the implementation of articles 6 and 9 of the Protocol, including awareness-raising;
- (c) Requests the Secretariat to collect information from States parties and signatories to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, in the context of the above programme

⁶General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex I.

⁷General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex II.

of work, using for that purpose a questionnaire to be developed in accordance with guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its first session;⁸

- (d) Requests States parties to respond promptly to the questionnaire circulated by the Secretariat;
 - (e) Invites signatories to provide the information requested by the Secretariat;
- (f) Requests the Secretariat to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its second session an analytical report based on the responses to the questionnaire.

II. Second session, 10 to 21 October 2005

Decision 2/3

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:

- (a) Reiterated its decision 1/5, by which it had requested States parties to respond promptly to the questionnaire circulated by the secretariat on the issues identified in that decision and had invited signatories to provide the information requested by the secretariat on those issues;
- (b) Noted with concern that the analytical report prepared by the secretariat⁹ was based on the responses of only 43 per cent of States parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; 10
- (c) Urged those States parties which had not yet done so to submit their responses to the questionnaire to the secretariat not later than 31 March 2006;
- (d) Invited signatories that had not yet done so also to provide the information requested by the secretariat;
- (e) Called upon States parties and signatories to review the analytical report prepared by the secretariat for the second session of the Conference of the Parties and to be guided by it in preparing their responses;

⁸It was the understanding of the Conference that the questionnaire referred to in this paragraph would not include questions on the implementation of articles 6 and 9 of the Protocol.

⁹CTOC/COP/2005/3.

¹⁰General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex II.

- (f) Noted with concern that a number of States parties had not complied with their obligations under the Protocol;
- (g) Urged those States parties which had not complied with their obligations under the Protocol to rectify that situation as soon as possible and to provide information on the measures taken to do so to the secretariat for submission to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;
- (h) Called upon States parties and signatories that encountered difficulties in providing the information requested by the secretariat in accordance with decision 1/5 and the present decision or in complying with their obligations under the Protocol to seek the assistance of the secretariat in that regard;
- (i) Requested the secretariat to provide such assistance subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources;
- (j) Requested States parties that had already responded to the questionnaire circulated by the secretariat in accordance with decision 1/5 to update such information or legislation as appropriate;
- (k) Requested the secretariat to submit an analytical report to include information received pursuant to the present decision, ensuring that it contained sufficient detail to permit the Conference of the Parties to review the implementation of the Protocol and the present decision, to the Conference of the Parties at its third session;
- (l) Also requested the secretariat to submit to the Conference of the Parties at its third session new or updated information received pursuant to subparagraphs (g) and (j) above;
- (m) Decided that the programme of work under this item for its third session would include the following:
 - (i) Consideration of matters related to assistance to and protection of victims of trafficking in persons (article 6) and status of such victims in receiving States (article 7);
 - (ii) Consideration of matters related to repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons (article 8);
 - (iii) Consideration of matters related to border measures (article 11), security and control of documents (article 12) and legitimacy and validity of documents (article 13);
 - (iv) Consideration of the value of developing, in cooperation with the International Labour Organization, indicators for forced labour;
- (n) Requested the secretariat to collect information from States parties and signatories to the Protocol, in the context of the above programme of work, using for that purpose a questionnaire to be developed in accordance with guidance provided by the Conference of the Parties at its second session;
- (o) Urged States parties to respond promptly to the questionnaire circulated by the secretariat;
 - (p) Invited signatories to provide the information requested by the secretariat;
- (q) Requested the secretariat to submit an analytical report based on the responses to the questionnaire to the Conference of the Parties at its third session.

III. Third session, 9 to 18 October 2006

Decision 3/3

Implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹¹ and welcoming the results of the consultations of government experts held during its third session:

- (a) Welcomes the fact that the majority of States parties that had provided national implementation information to the Secretariat have adopted legislative and institutional frameworks to ensure the 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, ¹² and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; ¹³
- (b) Urges those States parties which have not yet done so to submit information on their national implementation efforts and milestones in response to the first two reporting cycles;
- (c) Urges States parties to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air to review their policies, legislation and regulatory regimes, especially with regard to the travel and identity documents referred to in article 12 of each of those Protocols, in order to ensure consistent and effective application of the obligations contained in the relevant articles of those Protocols;
- (d) Urges States parties to provide, strengthen or facilitate, as appropriate, training in the areas of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants for judges, prosecutors and other lawyers, law enforcement, immigration, and other relevant officials, including providers of services for victims of trafficking in persons, with the support of technical assistance as may be required;

¹¹General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex I.

¹²General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex II.

¹³General Assembly resolution <u>55/25</u>, annex III.

- (e) Also urges States parties to identify and communicate to the secretariat their needs in technical assistance in order to assist it in developing proposals for effective and multidisciplinary anti-trafficking strategies and for effective anti-smuggling strategies;
- (f) Further urges States parties to take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to cooperate in investigations of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants;
- (g) Further urges States parties to take or strengthen measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that lead to trafficking;
- (h) Reminds States parties of their obligations under article 8 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and article 18 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- (i) Requests its secretariat to intensify cooperation, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, with the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration and other relevant international organizations, in accordance with article 33, paragraph 2 (c), of the Convention, with a view to developing practical guidelines for the identification by national competent authorities for victims of trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation, and to submit the guidelines to the Conference of the Parties at its fourth session, for discussion by States parties;
- (j) Also requests its secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to collect and make available to States parties successful practices with respect to investigations of offences covered by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the provision of protection and assistance measures to victims of trafficking in persons, as well as measures related to the repatriation of victims of trafficking in persons;
- (k) Further requests its secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to collect and make available to States parties successful practices with respect to investigations of offences covered by the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air and the provision of protection and assistance measures to persons who have been the object of conduct set forth in article 6 of that Protocol;
- (1) Further requests its secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, in cooperation with States parties and other relevant international organizations, to make available successful practices in the areas of training and capacity-building, as well as awareness-raising strategies and campaigns, with a view to enhancing efforts to identify and assist victims of trafficking in persons or persons who have been the object of conduct set forth in article 6 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air;
- (m) Further requests its secretariat, subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to identify opportunities to mainstream its work related to the furtherance and objectives of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, into relevant United Nations agencies that are lead agencies in humanitarian crises or emergency situations.

IV. Fourth session, 8 to 17 October 2008

Decision 4/4

Trafficking in human beings

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, recalling also its decision 3/3 and General Assembly resolutions 61/144 of 19 December 2006 and 61/180 of 20 December 2006, having considered the report and notes by the Secretariat concerning the fight against trafficking in human beings¹⁵ and taking into account the thematic debate held in the Assembly in June 2008:

- (a) Welcomed the results of the consultations of Government experts held during its fourth session;
- (b) Recalled the Organized Crime Convention and, in particular, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant international instruments:
- (c) Underlined the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to address the problem of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms;
- (d) Acknowledged that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol was the principal legally binding global instrument to combat trafficking in persons;
- (e) Affirmed that a primary purpose of the Conference was to improve the capacity of States parties to combat trafficking in persons and that the Conference should spearhead international efforts in that regard;
- (f) Urged States that had not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Organized Crime Convention and, in particular, the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (g) Called upon States parties to continue to strengthen their national legislations and policies for the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (h) Encouraged Member States to continue to strengthen their national policies and their cooperation with the United Nations system to combat human trafficking;
- (i) Invited States to take measures to discourage the demand that fostered all forms of exploitation consistent with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (j) Invited Member States to take measures to alleviate the factors that made persons vulnerable to trafficking, consistent with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;

¹⁴Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

¹⁵CTOC/COP/2008/8, CTOC/COP/2008/9 and CTOC/COP/2008/11.

¹⁶United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

- (k) Urged States parties to take or strengthen measures, including through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, to improve the ability of law enforcement agencies to cooperate in investigations of trafficking in persons;
- (l) Requested States parties to develop, if necessary, tools to improve cooperation between law enforcement agencies, inter alia, in the areas of data collection and communications;
- (m) Requested the Secretariat to make available to Member States information on successful practices and measures in relation to victim support, witness protection and the facilitation of the participation of victims in the criminal justice system;
- (n) Decided to establish an open-ended interim working group, in accordance with article 32, paragraph 3, of the Organized Crime Convention, and rule 2, paragraph 2, of the rules of procedure for the Conference, to be chaired by a member of the Bureau, to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
 - (0) Decided also 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;
- (p) Decided further that the working group should meet during the fifth session of the Conference and should hold at least one intersessional meeting before that session;
- (q) Requested the Secretariat to inform the working group on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including on its coordinating role for the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and on coordination carried out with the secretariats of relevant international and regional organizations to promote and support implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (r) Also requested the Secretariat to assist the working group in the performance of its functions;
- (s) Decided that the chairman of the working group should submit a report on the activities of the working group to the Conference;
- (t) Decided to review and take a decision on the effectiveness and future of the working group at its sixth session, in 2012.

V. Fifth session, 18 to 22 October 2010

Resolution 5/2

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,

Recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ¹⁷ pursuant to which the Conference was established to improve the capacity of States parties to promote and review implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, ¹⁸

Recalling also its decision 4/4 of 17 October 2008 and General Assembly resolutions 61/144 of 19 December 2006, 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 63/194 of 18 December 2008 and 64/178 of 18 December 2009, having considered the reports of the Secretariat concerning the fight against trafficking in persons and the report submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons on the activities of the Working Group, 19 and taking into account the adoption by the General Assembly, in its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Welcoming the results of the consultations of Government experts held during the meetings of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons and the fifth session of the Conference,

Recalling the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and other relevant regional and international instruments,

Acknowledging that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol is the principal legally binding global instrument to combat trafficking in persons,

Aware of the fact that socio-economic factors such as poverty, underdevelopment and lack of equal opportunity provide fertile ground for trafficking in persons, and reiterating that comprehensive crime prevention policies, together with social, economic, health, education, justice and human rights policies, must address the root causes of the crime of trafficking in persons,

¹⁷Ibid., vol. 2225, No. 39574.

¹⁸Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

¹⁹CTOC/COP/2010/5, CTOC/COP/2010/6 and CTOC/COP/2010/11.

Reaffirming that one of the main purposes of the Conference is to improve the capacity of States parties to combat trafficking in persons and that the Conference should spearhead international efforts in that regard,

Welcoming the efforts made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2009 and 2010 to build State capacity through several training workshops on investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons, protecting victims and increasing awareness of trafficking in persons, especially among vulnerable populations, including women and children,

Concerned at the increasing number of reported incidents of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, as noted in the report of the Secretary-General on preventing, combating and punishing trafficking in human organs,²⁰ which concluded that there was a lack of reliable data in that regard,

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Taking note of the joint study of the Council of Europe and the United Nations entitled Trafficking in Organs, Tissues and Cells and Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of the Removal of Organs, ²¹ the most recent study on the subject, issued pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 63/14 of 3 November 2008, on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe,

Affirming the importance of United Nations bodies continuing to implement the Supplier Code of Conduct of the Procurement Division of the Secretariat, in particular article 5, pursuant to which it is expected that all suppliers prohibit forced labour,

- 1. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider, as a matter of priority, ratifying or 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;²²
- 2. Recognizes that trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants are distinct crimes that in some cases may share some features and that in most cases require separate legal, operational and policy responses;
- 3. Welcomes General Assembly resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, including the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, annexed to that resolution, in particular its six objectives, expresses its view that the Global Plan of Action will promote increased ratification and implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and looks forward to effective operation of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking, Especially Women and Children;
- 4. *Takes note of* the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking and recommends that the Secretariat consult with Member States before commencing any such initiative in order to achieve greater engagement;

²⁰E/CN.15/2006/10.

²¹Council of Europe and the United Nations, Trafficking in Organs, Tissues and Cells and Trafficking in Human Beings for the Purpose of the Removal of Organs (Strasbourg, Council of Europe, 2009).

²²United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

- 5. Welcomes the work of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, including the Group's recommendations, resulting from its meetings held on 14 and 15 April 2009, 27 and 29 January 2010 and 19 October 2010;²³
- 6. Calls upon States to cooperate effectively in addressing the root causes of trafficking in persons, in a cooperative and comprehensive manner and with a balanced perspective, incorporating both the supply and demand sides, as a step towards improving the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- 7. Reaffirms the following commitments made under the Trafficking in Persons Protocol:
- (a) Each State party shall ensure that its domestic legal or administrative systems contain measures that provide to victims of trafficking in persons, in appropriate cases, assistance to enable the views and concerns of victims to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of criminal proceedings against offenders in a manner not prejudicial to the rights of defence;
- (b) Each State party shall ensure that domestic legal systems contain measures that offer victims of trafficking in persons the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;
- (c) Each State party shall to the extent necessary initiate, develop or improve specific training programmes for its law enforcement personnel, including prosecutors, investigating magistrates and customs personnel, and other personnel charged with the prevention, detection and control of offences of trafficking in persons;
- (d) Each State party shall consider monitoring its policies and actual measures to combat trafficking in persons and make assessments of their effectiveness and efficiency;
- (e) Each State party shall adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that lead to trafficking;
 - 8. Encourages States to consider:
- (a) Integrating a victim-centred approach into their national responses to combating trafficking in persons, with full respect for the human rights of victims of such trafficking;
- (b) Establishing or strengthening inter-agency cooperation and coordination among competent authorities, law enforcement agencies and other agencies to combat trafficking in persons, including by increasing, where necessary, efforts to cooperate, investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons as defined in article 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, including enhancing, in particular, measures in areas such as mutual legal assistance, sharing of information, law enforcement cooperation and joint investigations, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

²³CTOC/COP/2010/6.

- (c) Raising public awareness of the harmful consequences of using goods and services derived from victims of forced labour and other types of exploitation;
- (d) Making better use of tools and materials produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant international and regional organizations working in the field of combating trafficking in persons;
- (e) Ensuring, in line with their domestic legislation, that trafficked persons are not punished or prosecuted for acts that they have committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that domestic laws, guidelines and policies clearly espouse this principle;
- 9. *Encourages* States parties to consider Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 19/4 of 21 May 2010 in which the Commission exhorts Governments to do the following:
- (a) Improve preventive measures and discourage the demand that fosters exploitation in all its forms and leads to trafficking in persons, with a view to its elimination, and accordingly to raise awareness of the negative impact of clients, consumers or users of trafficking in persons, inasmuch as it is they who are responsible for generating such demand;
- (b) Consider, within the framework of their respective national laws, among other measures, the application of criminal penalties or other penalties to consumers or users who intentionally and knowingly use the services of victims of trafficking in persons for any kind of exploitation;
- 10. *Requests* the Secretariat to continue its work on the analysis of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- 11. Also requests the Secretariat, within existing resources, to submit to it, at its sixth session, a report compiling examples of best practices for addressing the demand for labour, services or goods that foster the exploitation of others, as defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and invites Member States to provide such examples, if available, to the Secretariat before the sixth session in order to facilitate that process;
- 12. Looks forward to the meeting of an expert group on trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and other forms of trafficking in human organs, to be convened by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime prior to the sixth session of the Conference, and, in this regard, requests that the expert group address the issue of such crime, with a view to identifying trends, new patterns and conditions that contribute to its occurrence;
- 13. *Invites* States parties, States represented by observers at sessions of the Conference and relevant international organizations to provide the Secretariat with up-to-date information and available statistical data related to the offence of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, in order to better support evidence-based approaches to the prevention, detection and prosecution of such crime, as well as the provision of specialized, coordinated assistance and compensation for victims of the trafficking described in paragraph 12 above;
- 14. *Decides* that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons should continue to perform those functions set forth in Conference decision 4/4 of 17 October 2008;

- 15. Also decides that the Working Group should hold at least one intersessional meeting prior to the sixth session of the Conference and present its recommendations to the Conference on whether the Working Group should be extended and, if so, proposed areas for future work;
- 16. Requests the Secretariat to submit to the Conference at its sixth session a report on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including with respect to its coordinating role in and the activities of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and on coordination carried out with the secretariats of relevant regional and international organizations to promote and support implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- 17. Also requests the Secretariat to continue to assist the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons in the performance of its functions;
- 18. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

VI. Tenth session, 12 to 16 October 2020

Resolution 10/3

Effective 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,

Recalling the functions assigned to it in article 32 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,²⁴ 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,²⁵

Recalling also its decision 4/4 of 17 October 2008 and its resolution 5/2 of 22 October 2010, recalling further General Assembly resolutions 61/144 of 19 December 2006, 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 63/194 of 18 December 2008, 64/178 of 18 December 2009, 67/190 of 20 December 2012, 68/192 of 18 December 2013, 70/179 of 17 December 2015, 71/167 of 19 December 2016, 72/1 of 27 September

²⁴United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

²⁵Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

2017, 72/195 of 19 December 2017, 73/189 of 17 December 2018 and 74/176 of 18 December 2019, Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolutions 20/3 of 15 April 2011, 23/2 of 16 May 2014, 25/1 of 27 May 2016 and 27/2, 27/3 and 27/4 of 18 May 2018, Economic and Social Council resolutions 2013/41 of 25 July 2013, 2015/23 of 21 July 2015 and 2017/18 of 6 July 2017,²⁶ and having considered the reports of the Secretariat concerning efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and the reports submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons on the activities of the Working Group,

Welcoming the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which provides an opportunity to reflect on our progress and focus on gaps and implementation challenges that need to be addressed,

Bearing in mind that the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, which enjoys near universal ratification, with 178 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,

Highlighting the impact of the Protocol over the last 20 years on anti-trafficking efforts within the United Nations system, including the establishment of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and the Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking,

Recalling article 6, paragraph 1, of the Protocol, on the protection of the privacy and identity of victims of trafficking in persons, without prejudice to relevant national laws or bilateral and multilateral agreements that include provisions on the protection of personal data,

Highlighting the role of the Protocol in inspiring anti-trafficking treaties and action plans, such as those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Economic Community of West African States, the Economic Community of Central African States, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the European Union and many others, which have enhanced information exchange, technical assistance and public-private partnerships,

Acknowledging with appreciation the central role and work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in its tireless efforts to promote the effective implementation of the Convention and the Protocol through its Global Programme against Trafficking in Persons, the development of tools, issue papers and training materials, its Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and the impact of the Global Report on improving the global

²⁶Taking note of the pertinent provisions of Security Council resolutions <u>2331 (2016)</u>, <u>2368 (2017)</u>, <u>2388 (2017)</u> and <u>2482 (2019)</u>.

understanding of the nature, scope and impact of 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, aimed at fostering greater public awareness of trafficking in persons,

Taking note with appreciation of the issue papers published by the Office containing analysis of the key concepts of the definition of trafficking in persons provided in the Protocol, including abuse of a position of vulnerability, consent and exploitation, which have enhanced the understanding of Member States and informed the recent revisions of the Model Law against Trafficking in Persons²⁷ and the Legislative Guide for the 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,

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,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons annexed to that resolution, noting its six objectives, and expressing its view that the Global Plan of Action will promote increased ratification and implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and taking note with appreciation of the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action by the General Assembly in 2013 and 2017, and looking forward to the next appraisal, in 2021,

Recalling also that the United Nations Global Plan of Action institutionalized the Inter-Agency Coordination Group and the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and established the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Taking note of the 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, which found, inter alia, a continued global challenge in holding accountable the perpetrators of the crime, despite progress achieved in other anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing the contributions of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group in fostering coordination and cooperation in efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, within the existing mandates of its United Nations and regional organization members and partners, as well as the development of various issue papers on current topics having an impact on global anti-trafficking efforts, and encouraging further engagement on the part of regional organizations in relation to joining and co-chairing the Inter-Agency Coordination Group,

²⁷United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.V.11.

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Reaffirming that one of the main purposes of the Conference is to improve the capacity of States parties to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, welcoming the forthcoming launch of the Implementation Review Mechanism, noting with appreciation the efforts of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, as well as the Working Group on International Cooperation, the Working Group on Technical Assistance, the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants and the Working Group on Firearms, to provide the benefits of their expertise to the development of the self-assessment questionnaires for the Mechanism, and welcoming the outcomes of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group established in accordance with Conference resolution 9/1, with the input of these working groups, in completing and harmonizing the self-assessment questionnaires and the blueprints for the list of observations and the summaries,

Welcoming the work of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, and taking note with appreciation of the more than 250 recommendations resulting from its nine meetings held since April 2009 to assist States parties in enhancing the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,

Noting the tenth meeting of the Working Group, which was held during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in a hybrid format, and underscoring that the traditional meeting format will resume once the health and safety situation allows,

Recalling 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 also that, according to the 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, more than 70 per cent of the detected victims of trafficking are women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to and disproportionally affected by trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation,

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Expressing solidarity with and compassion for individuals who are or have been victims of trafficking in persons by encouraging the integration of a victim-centred approach, which takes into account the age, gender and physical, mental and special needs of victims, and the incorporation of this approach into national responses to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, with full respect for the human rights of victims of such crime,

Recognizing the multifaceted nature of trafficking in persons and the central role of Governments in effectively preventing and combating this crime and protecting its victims, and recognizing also the importance of States parties fostering partnerships, as appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, with a view to reviewing, developing and implementing comprehensive anti-trafficking measures, including social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, relying upon sound research, whenever possible, to inform such measures,

Recognizing also the fundamental role that effective international cooperation plays in the efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and to this end underlining the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international

challenges and barriers that undermine the ability of States to cooperate and access the necessary information and other resources to counter this crime,

- 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. Encourages Member States, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to adopt an integrated strategy to better address the distinct and very often interrelated components of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, which are recognized as crimes that in some cases may share some features and that in many cases require complementary, legal, operational and/or policy responses, taking into account the important role of States parties to both Protocols in the fight against these crimes;
- 3. Calls upon the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to perform its mandate to further support Member States in their implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, including through the provision of tailor-made, accessible and effective technical assistance, upon request;
- 4. *Encourages* States to develop or amend, as appropriate, national laws and other measures that criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, in accordance with article 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and relevant provisions of the Convention, including article 34, paragraph 2, relating to the implementation thereof;
- 5. Urges Member States to develop or amend, as appropriate, national laws to ensure that trafficking in persons in all its forms is liable to sanctions that take into account the gravity of the offence and, depending on the gravity of the offence, subject to a long statute of limitations period, as appropriate, and to maximize the effectiveness of criminal justice systems in holding traffickers accountable, including legal persons, if applicable, and also those who intentionally obstruct justice or abuse their position of trust, further deterring the commission of trafficking in persons offences;
- 6. Requests the Office to continue its work on the analysis of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the preparation of issue papers and similar technical tools to assist States' criminal justice response proceedings and identify good practices among States parties;
- 7. Encourages Member States to establish or strengthen prevention efforts as well as activities to support, protect and empower victims with a view to supporting their long-term social inclusion, where appropriate and in accordance with domestic laws, as well as establish or strengthen multidisciplinary cooperation and coordination at the national, regional and international levels among competent authorities, law enforcement agencies and other relevant agencies involved in combating trafficking in persons, including by increasing, where necessary, efforts to cooperate on, investigate and prosecute cases of trafficking in persons as defined in article 3 of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, including enhancing, in particular, measures in areas such as mutual legal assistance, law enforcement cooperation and joint investigations, where applicable and in accordance

with the provisions of the Organized Crime Convention and their domestic law, and to identify national points of contact to further streamline coordination and cooperation;

- 8. Encourages States parties to make every possible effort to improve the exchange of information, including on the methods used by organized criminal groups involved in trafficking in persons, as set forth in article 10, paragraph 1, of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and to consider developing standard operating procedures to allow law enforcement, immigration or other relevant authorities of States parties, as appropriate, to promptly send official information about identified victims to the destination countries, countries of origin and transit countries, including information on the acts and means used for the purpose of trafficking in persons in order to initiate a joint investigation, in accordance with national law;
- 9. *Invites* Member States to develop, enact or amend, as appropriate, national anti-money-laundering legislation that applies to the widest range of predicate offences and treats trafficking in persons as a predicate offence of money-laundering, consistent with the Organized Crime Convention and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- 10. *Encourages* Member States to regularly exchange, as appropriate, information and best practices based on national and international experiences on new methods used by traffickers to recruit victims of trafficking in persons or advertise victims to other perpetrators, such as the illicit use of information and communications technologies, in order to monitor trends and develop efficient methods to combat this crime;
- 11. *Encourages* States to strengthen national laws or take other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, aimed in particular at such new recruitment and advertising methods, to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that leads to trafficking;
- 12. Calls upon States to enhance their capacity to proactively identify, investigate and prosecute all forms of exploitation, including cases of trafficking for the purpose of forced labour, in order to address the consistently low number of prosecutions of such cases, and in this regard requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to Member States, upon request;
- 13. Encourages States, where appropriate, in accordance with domestic law and taking into account best practices or other promising measures developed in response to emerging trends in trafficking in persons, to:
- (a) Support, protect and empower victims with a view to promoting their long-term social inclusion, while engaging directly with victims through an inclusive and participatory process, for example by promoting their skills acquisition, including through formal education and professional and vocational training, and by facilitating their access to the labour market and microcredit;
- (b) Train and establish specialized investigation and prosecutorial units composed of personnel with advanced expertise in identifying victims and investigating and combating complex cases of trafficking in persons using a victim-centred and human

rights-based approach, which takes into account age, gender and physical, mental and special needs, and the impacts of trauma;

- (c) Consider taking measures to establish as a criminal offence the use of services which are the object of exploitation as referred to in article 3, paragraph (a), of the Protocol with the knowledge that the person is a victim of trafficking in persons;
- (d) Undertake proactive parallel financial investigations, including through collaboration with public and private financial institutions, as a good practice when investigating and prosecuting trafficking in persons, with a view to identifying vulnerabilities with regard to the further tracing, freezing and confiscation of proceeds acquired through this crime, while considering directing part of such proceeds, where possible, to programmes supporting victims of trafficking, and request the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance to Member States to establish such systems upon request;
- (e) Incorporate the voices of individuals who have been victims of trafficking in persons, as defined by national law, into the development and application of victim-centred policies, programmes and other anti-trafficking measures, which take into account age, gender and physical, mental and special needs, including through consultative platforms made up of members of civil society and/or individuals who have been victims of trafficking in persons, as defined by national law;
- (f) Establish effective protection mechanisms for the victims' families in their country of origin, transit countries and/or destination countries, as appropriate under national law:
- (g) Consider providing, in accordance with their domestic law, that victims of trafficking in persons are not inappropriately punished or prosecuted for acts they commit as a direct consequence of being trafficked and, where appropriate, provide access to remedies if they are punished or prosecuted for such acts and, accordingly, establish, as appropriate, domestic laws, guidelines or policies that espouse these principles;
- (h) In designing, monitoring and evaluating anti-trafficking programmes, incorporate, where possible, rigorous and scientific baseline and end-line data collection, which may include prevalence measurements, to determine if the programmes are having the intended impact, and invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support Member States in developing such measurements, as needed and upon request;
- (i) Analyse and adapt to technological advancements and new schemes or methods that traffickers use to recruit victims and facilitate their exploitation by advertising them to other perpetrators, and take measures to develop new, or use existing, targeted awareness-raising campaigns and training tools, including for law enforcement agencies, front-line service providers, such as social workers, education staff and health-care providers and at-risk industries, to identify and respond to indicators of trafficking in persons, and to develop or use existing specialized training for law enforcement officers, criminal justice practitioners and other first responders, including civil society service providers, and invite the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to consider opportunities to support Member States in these actions, as needed and upon request;

- (j) Encourage the private sector to conduct due diligence with respect to their supply chains, including through measures to regulate, license and monitor public and private recruitment and employment agencies, including prohibiting recruitment fees being charged to employees, to help ensure that such agencies are not used to facilitate trafficking in persons;
- (k) Develop and implement national policies, in line with their national laws, to prevent trafficking in persons in government procurement and global supply chains, including prohibiting recipients of government funding from engaging in practices known to facilitate trafficking in persons, such as charging workers recruitment fees or confiscating or denying workers access to their identity documents, mandating that recipients of government contracts inform their employees about protections and grievance mechanisms, and providing remedies in government contracts if recipients violate such policies;
- 14. Requests that the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons build upon the experience and outcomes of its tenth meeting and make every possible effort towards agreeing on recommendations during its future meetings, in line with usual practice;
- 15. Requests the secretariat, within existing resources and in consultation with States parties, to prepare and submit to the Conference of the Parties, for consideration at its eleventh session, a report on effective national criminal justice responses leading to the conviction and sentencing of perpetrators of trafficking in persons, including on specialized investigation and prosecution units, the tracing of illicit financial flows related to proceeds of crime covered by the Convention and concurrent financial investigations, victim-centred approaches, which take into account age, gender and physical, mental and special needs, including restitution and compensation for victims, access to remedies for victims wrongly punished or prosecuted, and other similar measures;
- 16. Encourages States parties to respond to the self-assessment questionnaires for the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto in accordance with the designated timeline and through broad consultations at the national level with all relevant stakeholders, including, where appropriate, the private sector, individuals and groups outside the public sector, non-governmental organizations and academia, taking into consideration the specificities of the Convention and the Protocols thereto and in a manner consistent with the procedures and rules of the Implementation Review Mechanism, and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to facilitate active input and participation across the Secretariat in the course of implementing the Implementation Review Mechanism, within its mandate and as called for in the procedures and rules for the functioning of the Mechanism, including by providing, upon request, advice to States parties during country reviews and, drawing on the specialized technical expertise available within the Office, providing assistance to States parties participating in the review process;
- 17. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

VII. Eleventh session, 17 to 21 October 2022

Resolution 11/5

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 thereto²⁸ 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, 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,

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,

Reaffirming the recognition of States parties that "trafficking in persons" means the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation, which includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, as set forth in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol,

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,

Recalling also all previous General Assembly resolutions related to trafficking in persons, including resolution 76/7 of 22 November 2021, entitled "2021 Political Declaration on

²⁸United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2225, 2237, 2241 and 2326, No. 39574.

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 further 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,

Taking into account the importance of 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 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,

PP 10

Recognizing the need to provide trauma-informed support to victims²⁹ of trafficking in persons, taking into account different factors such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability or social and economic inequalities,

Recognizing also the need for a victim-centred approach to ensure that victims are treated with respect and dignity and are not inappropriately penalized or adversely affected by laws, policies and other actions for acts that they commit as a direct consequence of their trafficking situation, and where appropriate and in accordance with domestic law, to provide victims with access to remedies if they are penalized or adversely affected,

Recognizing further the importance of promoting coordinated cross-border investigations and regional and international collaboration to strengthen the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons and the sharing of good practices,

Welcoming the holding of the constructive dialogue held after the conclusion of the twelfth meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons on 1 July 2022, and taking note of the valuable inputs and suggestions made by different stakeholders on ways to improve the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol regarding appropriate criminal justice responses to victims who have been compelled to commit offences as a result of their being trafficked; best practices in joint investigations and specialized prosecutions; and matters pertaining to the Mechanism for the Review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

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,

²⁹Although the term "survivors" is not defined in the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, it is often used to acknowledge that victims of trafficking in persons can recover from the trauma that they have endured.

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,

PP 15

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,

Taking note of the agreed conclusions of the sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,³⁰ on the theme "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,

Recalling the commitment contained in the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons to intensify efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking in persons,

Bearing in mind that all States parties have an obligation, as set forth in the Protocol, to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Noting the need for States parties to consider, where appropriate, enacting measures which require commercial entities to establish and report on due diligence measures to prevent trafficking in persons from occurring in their procurement practices and supply chains, and to also create incentives for the private sector to eliminate trafficking in persons in their supply chains,

Convinced of the importance of the implementation of article 30 of the Organized Crime Convention, in which the need for international cooperation and taking into account the adverse effects of organized crime on society in general and on sustainable development in particular, are highlighted,

Recognizing the fundamental role that effective international cooperation plays in the efforts to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, and to this end underlining the importance of addressing, tackling and effectively responding to international challenges and barriers that undermine the ability of States to cooperate and access the information and other resources necessary to counter this crime,

³⁰E/2022/27, para. 1.

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.

Concerned by reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime that high-light the worsening risks resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the increase in the number of children who fall victim to trafficking in persons, and noting that this crime 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 detected in the world, followed by forced labour,

PP 25

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 for trust to be built between criminal justice institutions and victims of trafficking in persons in order to improve efforts to hold accountable those responsible for the crime while providing trafficked persons and witnesses with effective and safe means of collaboration, as appropriate, during 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,

PP 30

Concerned about the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by traffickers in persons, operating simultaneously and anonymously in 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 parties to identify and address specific forms of trafficking in persons and implement targeted crime prevention measures, in accordance with their respective international obligations and domestic law, by addressing the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, including those in vulnerable situations such as poverty, underdevelopment, irregular migration, statelessness, unemployment, inequality, gender inequality, sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, discrimination, including gender and racial discrimination, disability, social and financial exclusion, marginalization, corruption and persecution, as well as humanitarian emergencies, armed conflicts and natural disasters;
- 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 gender, 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) Enhance cooperation with local communities, victims and civil society organizations to help actively identify and report trafficking in persons, 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. Encourages States parties to create or strengthen preventive initiatives, as well as victim-centred support using a trauma-informed approach and protection, engagement and empowerment activities, with a view to contributing to the long-term social inclusion of victims in order to, inter alia, 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, in line with their domestic law, the demand that fosters trafficking in persons in global supply chains, the private sector procurement and government procurement and to address 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. *Calls upon* States parties to conduct effective criminal investigations of corruption related to trafficking in persons and, where appropriate, refer such cases for prosecution, bearing in mind the obligations of States parties set forth in article 8 of the Convention;
- 9. Recognizes the need to effectively address the challenges presented by the misuse and abuse of information and communications technologies by human traffickers, and 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, to accomplish the following actions below, and requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and invites other relevant agencies of the United Nations system, also to assist requesting States in accomplishing the following actions below:
- (a) Improve the capacity of national authorities to collect, disaggregate and analyse data and conduct in-depth analyses of emerging trends;
- (b) Strengthen 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) Train and exchange experience in the use of international cooperation for mutual legal assistance, extradition and the confiscation, seizure and return of assets and proceeds of crime, including for the compensation of victims, and in conducting joint and parallel investigations and obtaining digital evidence and witness statements, bearing in mind article 6, paragraph 1, of the Protocol on the protection of the privacy and identity of victims of trafficking in persons;

- (d) Increase cooperation to identify and share information on the misuse of the Internet and information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons and the recruitment, control and exploitation of victims, especially women and children, and to transfer funds associated with this crime;
- 10. 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;
- 11. Also calls upon States to enhance international cooperation and build bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, in particular in the areas of capacity-building, the 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;
- 12. *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;
- 13. Urges States to strengthen South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation and approaches that address transnational trafficking in persons along its routes to promote coordinated cross-border cooperation and foster international and regional collaboration, using existing, or establishing when required, networks of competent authorities in order to enhance the effectiveness of criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons and improve the exchange of good practices, experiences and challenges;
- 14. *Invites* States to improve the collection and analysis of data, including gender-disaggregated data, on trafficking in persons, in accordance with national legislation and relevant United Nations international standards, in order to improve evidence-based responses to the gaps and challenges in implementing international obligations and realizing international commitments on trafficking in persons, and invites the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to support States in this regard, as needed and upon request;
- 15. *Urges* States to make full use of the experience and tools of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in combating trafficking in persons;
- 16. Requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with States and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct a study on the effects of prevention and awareness-raising campaigns to address trafficking in persons, which would also identify best practices, lessons learned, promising prevention measures and successful awareness-raising campaigns in this regard and benefit from data voluntarily provided by States;
- 17. Also requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in consultation with States and subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, to conduct a study and analysis of the modi operandi employed by organized criminal groups in trafficking

in persons in order to provide guidance to States parties, in particular with regard to the identification of better prevention practices, noting that those modi operandi can potentially be employed for the commission of transnational organized crime and other relevant serious crimes;

- 18. 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;
- 19. *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;
- 20. 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;
- 21. *Invites* States parties and other donors to provide extrabudgetary resources for these purposes, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

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| | <u>IX.9</u> , <u>IX.26</u> and <u>IX.34–37</u> | CTOC/COP/WG.4/2019/6 | | | 9, 26 and 34-37 |
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