



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

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Addendum

IV. Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto

B. Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

1. At its 4th and 5th meeting, on 16 and 17 October 2012, the Conference considered agenda item 2 (b), entitled “Review of the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children”. For its consideration of the item, the Conference had before it the following:

(a) Report of the Secretariat on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to promote and support 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 (CTOC/COP/2012/2);

(b) Note by the Secretariat transmitting the recommendations of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons at its meeting held in Vienna from 10 to 12 October 2011 (CTOC/COP/2012/3);

(c) Report of the Secretariat on best practices for addressing the demand for labour, services or goods that foster the exploitation of others (CTOC/COP/2012/4).



2. An introductory statement was made by a representative of the Secretariat. A statement was also made by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
3. Statements were made by the representatives of Norway, Argentina, Ecuador, Algeria, the United Arab Emirates, Sweden, Burkina Faso, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Switzerland, Lebanon, France, the Russian Federation, Romania, Indonesia, Italy, China, the United States, Egypt, Belarus and Mexico.
4. The observers for Thailand and Japan also made statements.
5. The observers for the International Organization for Migration and the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women also made statements.

Deliberations

6. Several speakers reported on measures taken at the national level to combat trafficking in persons, including ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,¹ and the adoption or amendment of national legislation. Other actions taken included the adoption of national action plans, the establishment of national coordination and information collection mechanisms, the adoption of dispositions for the non-criminalization and enhanced protection of and assistance for victims of trafficking, measures for seizing and recovering assets, the development of awareness-raising activities and the elaboration of bilateral and regional agreements. Some speakers announced their country's adoption of the Blue Heart campaign and expressed their support for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.
7. A number of speakers noted that trafficking in persons was a serious form of organized crime, affecting equally countries of origin, transit and destination, thus requiring a holistic, multidimensional approach that balanced criminal justice aspects with human rights. Speakers highlighted the need for a victim-centred approach to fighting trafficking in persons, the importance of identifying victims of trafficking in persons and the establishment of comprehensive protection and assistance mechanisms for victims and witnesses of trafficking in persons.
8. Several speakers emphasized the importance of the comprehensive approach of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293. Speakers welcomed the forthcoming publication by UNODC of the 2012 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.
9. Some speakers emphasized the important role of civil society organizations in implementing measures to counter trafficking in persons, especially in the area of prevention, protection and reintegration of victims.
10. Speakers noted that a comprehensive approach should address the root causes and the demand side of trafficking in persons in all its forms. In that regard, the report of the Secretariat on best practices for addressing the demand for labour,

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

services or goods that foster the exploitation of others (CTOC/COP/2012/4), could serve as a baseline for information on current global efforts.

11. Several speakers emphasized the need to continue the analysis of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and welcomed the UNODC issue paper on abuse of a position of vulnerability and other means within the definition of trafficking in persons.

12. The outcome and recommendations issuing from the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, held on 10-12 October 2011 including the Working Group's recommendations on future areas of work and support for the extension of its mandate, were noted.

13. Several speakers acknowledged the progress achieved to date by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in improving coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations entities and international organizations in the fight against trafficking in persons and encouraged the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to continue its work.

14. Speakers highlighted the role of UNODC and other international organizations in providing technical assistance to combat trafficking in persons. Speakers also expressed appreciation for the tools and materials developed by UNODC and the cooperation between their Governments and UNODC.
