



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
27 July 2022

Original: English

---

## Seventy-sixth session

Agenda item 108

### Crime prevention and criminal justice

#### **Letter dated 25 July 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to convey to you herewith the statement of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons celebrated on 30 July 2022 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

*(Signed)* Pavel **Evseenko**  
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



**Annex to the letter dated 25 July 2022 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

**Statement by the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons**

30 July 2022, New York

Trafficking in persons remains the third most profitable type of criminal activity in the world and one of the most serious global challenges of our time.

The theme for this year's celebration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons as proposed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is "Use and abuse of technology".

Technology is a double-edged sword when applied to the field of combating trafficking in persons.

On the one hand, technology can be applied to identify and rescue trafficking victims, conduct proactive investigations on online platforms, including through the use of artificial intelligence and facial recognition to identify both victims and perpetrators online, provide life-saving communication lines, support data aggregation and analysis.

On the other hand, emerging dimensions relating to technology include the extensive use of the Internet and social media by traffickers to recruit and exploit their victims as well as the tools to hide identities of criminals, facilitate transactions and expand the marketplace. Following the COVID-19 pandemic we observe that the recruitment of victims and the advertisement of services, have moved almost entirely to the online domain.

We are pleased to acknowledge that the Member States and the United Nations systems recognize the dangers caused by the misuse and abuse of technology by traffickers. The political declaration on the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, which was adopted on 22 November 2021 during the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the GPA, noted with concern the criminal misuse of information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet, to facilitate the trafficking of persons, and to emphasize the importance of countering such use while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to privacy, in compliance with other obligations under international law.

We believe that engagement with society, software developers and socially responsible technology companies are key to developing ways in which technology and social media could be used to further the efforts to combat crime and to enhance the effectiveness of anti-trafficking responses.

We call on all Member States to continue implementing the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the need to intensify international cooperation, including capacity-building, exchange of best practices and know-how and technical assistance, especially for developing countries in order to prevent and eliminate the practice of trafficking in persons and to assist the victims of this heinous crime.

Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking:

Bahrain  
Bangladesh  
Belarus  
Bolivia  
Egypt  
Eritrea  
India  
Kazakhstan  
Kyrgyzstan  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Libya  
Nicaragua  
Nigeria  
Philippines  
Qatar  
Russian Federation  
Singapore  
Tajikistan  
Turkmenistan  
United Arab Emirates  
Uzbekistan  
Venezuela

---