



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

Distr.: General
9 September 2005

Original: English

Second session
Vienna, 10-21 October 2005
Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Technical assistance activities

Technical assistance activities

Working paper prepared by the Secretariat

Addendum

* CTOC/COP/2005/1.



Annex I

Summary of technical assistance activities relevant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto by international entities

A. Responses received from international entities

1. Twenty-five international entities replied to the request of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for information on technical assistance activities carried out in the areas covered by the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I) and the Protocols thereto. Among them, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the World Food Programme, the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Secretariat to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the International Committee of the Red Cross had no information to report.

2. In addition, the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat, in the capacity of the Chair of the Inter-Departmental Group to Implement the Action Plan “An Era of Application of International Law”, provided its report, including the list of members of the Group and descriptions of the type of legal technical assistance available. While the whole list is available at the website of the Office of Legal Affairs (<http://www.un.org/law/technical/technical.htm>), a summary of activities relevant to the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols is provided below.

B. Technical assistance activities carried out by international organizations

1. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

3. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) has submitted a paper (in Spanish only) entitled “Transnational organized crime as a serious violation of human rights: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” to the Hemispheric Conference on International Migration: Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons in the Americas, held in Santiago from 20 to 22 November 2002. The paper also contained a number of proposals for possible collaboration with the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. ECLAC also contributed to the seminar on improving data and research on human trafficking, held in Rome in May 2004, by making a presentation entitled “A Latin American approach to the improving of data and research on human trafficking”.

4. ECLAC reported that it is planning to prepare a study on the contributions of the Organized Crime Convention and the United Nations Convention against Corruption (General Assembly resolution 58/4, annex) to the fight against impunity

for the violation of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to organize a regional expert group meeting on the role of both conventions for the consolidation of human security.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

5. Noting that trafficking in persons was a severe problem in Western Asia, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia expressed its interests in collaborating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in areas such as conducting research, collecting and analysing information on relevant legislation, mapping the origin, transit and destination countries of trafficked persons, assessing and providing technical assistance to Governments and non-governmental organizations in the region (for example by training judges and police officers), victim rehabilitation, organizing regional and national workshops and/or expert group meetings to exchange information and provide guidance on how to combat trafficking in persons and raising awareness.

3. United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

6. The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research provides assistance to States parties to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects^a in fulfilling their reporting obligations. The comprehensive and detailed reporting assistance that is provided includes: reporting guidelines; creation of a help desk to assist States with specific queries; and field, national and regional workshops, which provide in-depth guidance and discussion on the content of the national reports. More than 100 countries received assistance through such regional workshops. In preparation of the 2005 biennial meeting of States to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action and the 2006 United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, awareness-raising activities will be carried out concerning the Programme of Action and efforts will be made to raise support for the participation of parliamentarians from less developed countries and development of a global communication campaign on the effect of small arms on human development. A global database on small arms has been developed under the framework of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism to document activities being undertaken by States, international organizations and civil society in implementing the Programme of Action, as well as needs assessment. In the future, assistance to build capacity in implementing the Programme of Action will include in-depth needs assessment, monitoring activities, including regional workshops and mainstreaming the Agreement, reporting also into other United Nations programmes related to small arms.

4. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) reported on its Project to Fight Human Trafficking in Africa and the interventions to counter trafficking in human beings and the smuggling of migrants. UNESCO conducts multidisciplinary research on factors related to trafficking in humans, including HIV/AIDS, identifying best practices in preventing and combating such trafficking. A report entitled *Searching for Best Practices to Counter Human Trafficking in Africa: a Focus on Women and Children* has been

published, identifying key international organizations engaged in the struggle against human trafficking. A methodological handbook has also been produced on concepts, guidelines and methods for designing strategies, policies and projects with a culturally sensitive approach. Regional reports on factors leading to trafficking in humans in the pilot countries of Benin, Lesotho, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa and Togo have been produced, with policy recommendations. Workshops will be organized in order to test the validity of the regional reports on key stakeholders in those countries. Training kits will subsequently be distributed and disseminated in larger training groups planned for 2006. Awareness-raising through the training of civil society and decision makers, also initiated in 2005, includes the provision of training for West African and South African non-governmental organizations and community and religious leaders and policymakers.

8. UNESCO also provides training for and supports non-governmental organizations in rendering assistance, through the Highland Citizenship and Birth Registration Project, whereby tribal people are assisted in gaining citizenship. Country-specific studies have also been carried out in a number of countries, identifying the sociocultural factors that play a role in the expansion of trafficking in humans. UNESCO cooperates with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Western and Southern Africa in research, awareness-raising and training within the framework of the “UNESCO Project to Fight Human Trafficking in Africa”. UNESCO also cooperates with all relevant United Nations organizations fighting trafficking in humans in the Mekong area within the framework of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Areas of possible cooperation included the organization of joint training activities in each agency’s field of competence.

5. International Civil Aviation Organization

9. Recent important initiatives taken by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) include the development and regular updating of technical specifications for machine-readable travel documents, as well as the adoption of a global approach to the integration of encoded biometric information identification into passports and machine-readable travel documents with a view to establishing a worldwide, interoperable system of identity confirmation. Also under consideration by ICAO is the development of an advanced passenger information system, involving the electronic interchange of a limited number of data elements, such as passport identification details and basic flight information between States.

10. ICAO also reported on its continuous efforts to promote the ratification of the five international aviation security instruments through assistance to States in the development of national aviation security regulatory frameworks, ensuring that the provisions contained in aviation security conventions are incorporated into the domestic legislation of States and that the appropriate oversight controls and enforcement procedures are put in place. Through the technical cooperation programme, assistance is provided on a country-specific, subregional or regional basis, following an analysis of the adequacy of the State’s regulatory framework for the enforcement of immigration/customs regulations, practices and procedures in compliance with the requirements of ICAO. Technical assistance includes the provision of expertise, equipment and training of national personnel, the development of technical specifications and tenders and the mobilization of

resources necessary for project implementation. Examples of such assistance are the training of managerial personnel in crisis management or hostage negotiation. Following the entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection,^b procurement and installation of explosive detector systems at airports and training of airport personnel in equipment use have also been carried out.

6. International Maritime Organization

11. The International Maritime Organization provides technical assistance through its global technical cooperation programme on maritime security regional and national seminars/workshops, as well as country advisory missions on maritime security. Lesson plans and training manuals focus on the implementation of the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code, including prevention and suppression of smuggling of stowaways and drugs, piracy and armed robberies.

7. International Fund for Agricultural Development

12. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) carries out technical assistance only as a component of IFAD-funded projects linked to poverty reduction, especially focusing on gender and the prevention of trafficking in girls in India and Nepal, and includes employment generation opportunities for girls in affected areas.

8. International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

13. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) provides legal and international agreement awareness and assistance to member States under the Nuclear Security Plan of Action to increase widespread awareness and compliance on a global basis. Awareness seminars were held for member States of the Common Market of the Southern Cone (MERCOSUR) in 2003 and for Andean States in 2004. System-wide information collection, analysis and reporting are being carried out in order to protect and control access to nuclear and other radioactive materials. Cooperation with agencies outside the United Nations system is taking place, whereby technical assistance has been provided to the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and a United States government agency in training police officers in the monitoring and detection of nuclear and radioactive materials. Interpol and the European Police Office (Europol) have also been provided with technical information on the identification of stolen and missing radioactive materials. Joint projects, training activities and awareness-raising in the area of rule-of-law assistance and capacity-building have also been carried out, including with the Universal Postal Union, addressing the presence of contraband being illegally transported via legal and institutionalized means.

9. United Nations University

14. The United Nations University reported that, rather than technical assistance, it engages in research on issues covered by the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto.

10. Asian Development Bank

15. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) reported that it had integrated concerns relating to trafficking in women and children into selected loan projects since 1999, especially in highway projects, mentioning in particular two technical cooperation projects, in South Asia and the Mekong area. Regional technical assistance in South Asia (2001-2003) was provided to Bangladesh, India and Nepal. Three country reports, a regional synthesis report and a legal framework report were produced, as well as a guide for integrating concerns involving trafficking in persons into ADB operations. In order to foster regional policy dialogue and capacity-building, a series of national and regional consultation workshops and visits were held. A practical “integration tool” of sector guidelines was produced and disseminated in order to operationalize and integrate in ADB elements for countering such trafficking. Another capacity-building and pilot project entitled “Preventing the Trafficking of Women and Children and Promoting Safe Migration in the Greater Mekong Subregion (2004-2006)” is aimed at providing programmes for the prevention of such trafficking and at developing institutional awareness and building capacity, within ADB and in Cambodia, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Thailand and Viet Nam. It will promote safe migration and address such trafficking and related issues in regional projects. Through working with Governments, non-governmental organizations and communities, baselines will be established and monitoring mechanisms developed for the different project stages. Awareness-raising campaigns will also be prepared, including workshops and seminars against trafficking in persons. The development of economic alternatives for groups at risk through training and economic empowerment is also important. Finally, a set of guidelines to integrate issues related to trafficking in persons into projects in the region and a subregional conference on such trafficking will be held at ADB headquarters. The project will involve working closely with the ongoing initiatives of the United Nations Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

11. Commonwealth of Independent States

16. The Council of the Interparliamentary Assembly of States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) undertakes activities for the convergence, harmonization and standardization of the national laws of member States, including in the field of security. Such activities include development of model legislation and recommendations, various pilot academic events for the discussion of security problems, meetings with other regional bodies or agencies of CIS with a view to developing common approaches and carrying out comprehensive evaluation and exchanges of experts. Through the Joint Commission for the Harmonization of Laws to Combat Terrorism, Crime and Drug Trafficking in the CIS, deputies and representatives of CIS, sectoral cooperation agencies and national law enforcement agencies cooperate in drawing up proposals for the harmonization of laws to combat terrorism, crime and drug trafficking.

17. The Council is also currently developing an inter-State programme of measures to combat the illegal removal of and trafficking in persons.

12. Council of Europe

18. The Council of Europe provided extensive information on its activities in the fight against trafficking in human beings. Recent highlights include the adoption, by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, of the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings^c and Recommendation No. R (2000) 11, on action against trafficking in human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Both set up the legal framework for combating trafficking in human beings in the region. Moreover, the main added value of the Convention would be its monitoring mechanism.

19. Studies and research have been carried out to improve understanding of the problem of trafficking in human beings, including its many different aspects. Recently, a report was prepared on the impact of the use of new information technologies on such trafficking.

20. The Council of Europe has been active in organizing a number of seminars on trafficking in human beings, including an international seminar on “coordinated action against trafficking in human beings in South-Eastern Europe”, a workshop on “good” and “bad” practices regarding the image of women in the media and an international seminar on the role of non-governmental organizations in taking action against trafficking in human beings.

21. A number of field activities have also been undertaken in Albania, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation and Ukraine, as well as in the South Caucasus and South-Eastern Europe. Some of those activities have been carried out within the framework of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

13. European Commission

22. The European Commission provides technical assistance in a wide range of areas. Judicial and law enforcement institution-building is provided to candidate and accession countries in order to improve border control security and to prevent and fight more effectively organized crime, money-laundering, corruption, illegal migration and trafficking in human beings, in particular through the Community Assistance for Reconstruction, Development and Stabilisation (CARDS) programme, the TACIS programme (cooperation with the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia) and the Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) seminars on judicial reform and the European Union acquis.

23. In the Western Balkans assistance is carried out within the framework of the Stabilisation and Association process, focusing on trade, financial assistance, stabilization and association agreements and regional cooperation, institution-strengthening and capacity-building. Such assistance has been targeted through expert missions. The CARDS programme consists of both national programmes and a regional component, dealing with regional and international cooperation and networking between law enforcement and judicial authorities, as well as standard-setting and thematic guidance on the reform process of national legislation and institutions. Related projects with civil society involvement against border crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption have also been carried out. The TAIEX programme focuses on the adoption and implementation of justice and home affairs legislation through a series of national workshops. Areas of priority are police,

public order and organized crime, border management, judicial reform and promoting asylum and migration policies that meet European Union and international standards.

24. Country-level programmes are carried out in the Eastern and Southern Mediterranean (through the Mediterranean partners and the European Union member States (the Euro-Mediterranean partners)) in the field of policing and justice. At the regional level, a Mediterranean justice and home affairs regional programme has been established for training purposes.

25. Assistance and cooperation with newly independent States take place through partnership and cooperation agreements and focus mainly on combating trafficking in human beings and terrorism and promoting the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and its Protocols and the relevant United Nations conventions and instruments against terrorism. Subcommittees on justice and home affairs have been established with Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. One of the most important initiatives under the partnership and cooperation agreement is the improvement (inter alia, through the European Union Border Management Programme for Central Asia (BOMCA)) of border management and combating trafficking in human beings, drug trafficking, illicit trafficking in and criminal use of nuclear and radioactive substances and weapons and money-laundering in Western newly independent States such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and in Central Asia (BOMCA), whereby technical assistance, such as training, equipment and infrastructure and capacity-building is provided. The new European Neighbourhood Policy provides technical assistance through action plans that cover a number of key areas for specific action, including justice and home affairs. Through the Cotonou Agreement, development aid, mainly from the European Development Fund, is provided to 77 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to support institutional development, capacity-building and efforts to fight corruption and bribery.

26. In the context of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM), a programme is sponsored to reinforce institutional capacity at the regional and national levels among South-east and North Asian countries, as well as to support global efforts against money-laundering, by providing assistance for financial and money-laundering investigations, training of judicial personnel, combating the financing of terrorism and improving border control and migration management.

27. In the context of the MERCOSUR agreement, the focus is on cooperation in the fight against drugs and organized crime, the establishment of effective and preventive policies against the smuggling of migrants, trafficking in human beings, including protection of victims, and illicit trafficking in cultural property. Ongoing projects also include a regional project to combat trafficking in chemical precursors (Andean Community); training to combat euro counterfeiting (Colombia); judicial reform and capacity-building; protection of children from sexual exploitation (Central America); strengthening institutional capacity to combat money-laundering; and providing support for the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean in Lima.

28. Through the Aeneas programme, specific and complementary financial and technical aid is provided to third countries in order to support their efforts in

managing issues related to migratory flows, in particular asylum, border control, refugees, displaced people, the readmission and reintegration of migrants and the smuggling of human beings. In 2004, the focus of the programme was the Mediterranean; in 2005, priority will be given to the Russian Federation and Ukraine and to countries in the South Caucasus.

14. International Organization for Migration

29. The International Organization for Migration implements technical assistance activities against trafficking in persons. These activities have focused on three main areas: prevention, protection and prosecution.

30. Prevention activities include awareness-raising projects and capacity-building activities. Projects such as "Prevention of Trafficking: Information for Youth in the Baltic States" target teachers, students and school administrations. Through capacity-building, in-school information dissemination and peer-to-peer education, youth are sensitized to the problem of trafficking in persons and empowered to make informed and safe decisions in risk situations. Capacity-building activities include awareness-raising and media planning, training in methodology and the development of materials, information and training seminars for teachers and future teachers and student leaders and subsequent peer-to-peer information-sharing and training support, in-school information sessions and the dissemination of training materials targeting trafficking in persons. A special website for interactive consultations with youth on the Internet has also been established.

31. Activities facilitating protection and prosecution are provided in partnership with government agencies and non-governmental organizations. Through a project on the return and reintegration of trafficked women and children, protection and assistance are provided to victims in selected countries in the Mekong area. By building the capacity of Governments and non-governmental organizations to develop systematic and sustainable support mechanisms for the identification, return, recovery and reintegration of victims, more than 1,100 victims were assisted in the period 2000-2004 and were able to return to their countries of origin.

32. Capacity-building activities in 2005 focus on advancing the support mechanisms through improved victim identification, case management, family tracing/assessment, data collection and communication. Increasing national capacities for the provision of reintegration assistance such as interview training, life skill training, counsellor training and training of trainers will also be modified and adapted to changing realities in each target country. A specific research report to provide a critical analysis of regional return and reintegration processes, focusing on the identification of gaps, obstacles to the implementation of activities, best practices and changing priorities in each regional country will also be produced.

33. In the Balkans a project combating trafficking in human beings through the provision of direct assistance to victims of such trafficking and non-governmental organization capacity-building facilitate the return and reintegration of trafficked persons. The project also strengthens the capacities of local non-governmental organizations in providing direct assistance to victims of trafficking. A direct assistance handbook has been developed to provide guidelines on working with victims of trafficking in persons. A project on combating trafficking in persons in Central Asia is aimed at facilitating the efforts of CIS member States to meet the

requirements of the Protocols to the Organized Crime Convention. Several regional seminars to counter such trafficking have been organized for non-governmental organizations, border guards and law enforcement officials from the five Central Asian States, including Afghanistan. The seminars cover legislation against trafficking in persons, as well as victim identification and protection. Such forums have contributed to the development of regional strategies and coordination mechanisms, including legislative development and harmonization, enabling further cooperation in criminalization and the prosecution of traffickers, as well as victim protection and repatriation.

34. Regional-level activities will be implemented in order to build linkages between the national programmes. Such activities include capacity-building for non-governmental organizations, operating hotlines and conducting community outreach programmes, creating a Central Asian regional forum for institutional exchange, training consular officers, making available legislative models for countering trafficking and acquiring the rights for limited distribution in Central Asia of “Lilya 4-Ever”, a film on trafficking in humans beings.

35. The Southern African Counter-Trafficking Assistance Programme provides technical assistance to support and develop the capacity of Governments and civil society to prevent trafficking in persons, protect the victims and offer them opportunities for rehabilitation and reintegration. Other activities include the collection and analysis of field data and legal research, the development of an integrated referral and support network through a series of training workshops for law enforcement officials, the provision of assistance to victims and the provision of policy guidance to Governments on lessons learned and best practices in combating trafficking in persons. Currently, 146 projects are being carried out to counter such trafficking.

36. The International Organization for Migration also provides technical assistance focusing on establishing or strengthening border control systems, systems for issuing travel documents, reviewing and updating policy-making, legal and administrative frameworks and investigating transnational organized crime, including smuggling. Currently, over 200 technical cooperation projects are being carried out. In Central Asia assistance is provided to interior and border control services and to the police with a view to strengthening immigration inspection and border management. Assistance is also being given to Jamaica, the Republic of Moldova and Zambia to build the capacity of border and customs authorities. The International Organization for Migration also works with partner Governments to support efforts at improving the issuance of international travel documents, as a measure against the counterfeiting, forging or illegal procurement of travel documents. The International Organization for Migration assists countries in their assessment of current travel document systems and in the planning, upgrading and management of new systems. Assistance has been given to Bangladesh, Belize, Ecuador and Kyrgyzstan, as well as to the Community of Sahel-Saharan States. In the case of Ecuador, assistance was given in modernizing the Ecuadorian passport and improving the national issuance system for machine-readable travel documents. The project also sought to enhance the integrity of the issuance process in order to reduce the incidence of document fraud. Technical assistance was provided in the acquisition, setting up and use of technical equipment. Passport control facilities will subsequently be upgraded in cooperation with the Ecuadorian migration police,

to be extended to Ecuadorian consulates. The International Organization for Migration is assisting the Government in modernizing and improving the issuance of the national passport, assisting in the drafting of technical tender documentation for passport production. The Organization also participates in ICAO meetings and supports the work of ICAO in the promotion of internationally standard machine-readable travel documents. The Organization assists Governments and other agencies in reviewing and updating their policy, legal and administrative frameworks, developing laws, regulations, policies and management structures based on international best practices and specific national needs that address smuggling and related criminal activities in the area of migration. Assistance in the form of an international comparative study of migration legislation and practice has been rendered to the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform of Ireland. A regional conference on migration, in which Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama participated, was held with a view to ensuring more standardized legislation and practice throughout the region and modernizing the processes involved in migration management.

15. Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol

37. The Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol reported on its work to combat the illegal trade in ozone depleting substances (ODS) in different regions of the world. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization deliver assistance through the Fund, and information has been provided on the assistance rendered through the nine UNEP regional networks in combating illegal trade in ODS. Those activities included the facilitation of implementing national and regional customs training. Through national training workshops for customs officers, the participants will become national trainers themselves. Other workshops include regional workshops on ODS monitoring, licensing systems and Harmonized System codes in Africa, the Commonwealth of Independent States, Eastern Europe, Latin America and other regions. Integrated customs training has been proposed whereby customs officers are acquainted with problems regarding the implementation of all major environmental treaties rather than having separate training workshops.

38. Awareness-raising activities target the general public and particular groups through media coverage of activities that are being carried out, such as the holding of workshops, the dissemination of information on cases involving illegal trade in ODS and the production of information sheets and leaflets. An online image bank of photos has been established to facilitate the identification by customs and other relevant stakeholders of illegal shipments of ODS and the collection of information on legislation for the monitoring and control of ODS from countries in the region and the dissemination of that information to all countries, explaining the issue of illegal trade in ODS to regional trade and political organizations, which can then include that issue in their work programmes. The impact of the activities on the institutional and legal capability of countries to prevent and combat illegal trade in ODS was assessed by sending questionnaires and organizing country visits to interview customs officers and relevant authorities.

16. Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors

39. The Offshore Group of Banking Supervisors provides technical assistance through its participation in working groups such as the British Commonwealth Working Group on Asset Repatriation and the proposed Interpol working group on countering money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, as well as the Financial Action Task Force Working Group on Terrorist Financing and Working Group on Evaluations and Implementation of the Forty Plus Nine Recommendations. Individual members of the Offshore Group have provided technical assistance to non-members.

17. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

40. The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) provides assistance through its Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, assisting its member States in ratifying and implementing the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto, especially the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II). Pre-ratification activities include the translation and printing of the Convention and its Protocols, the provision of assistance in judicial and legislative reform, the drafting of legislation and the training of law enforcement officers and members of the judicial system in cooperation with local non-governmental organizations and international organizations.

41. Victim protection and support to trafficked persons are promoted through a project of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights on a practical manual of “national referral mechanisms”, which describes the system of cooperation and the division of labour between State structures and civil society. That mechanism is promoted through workshops, short- and long-term projects, training and other forms of awareness-raising. Assistance is also offered in drafting and implementing national action plans and State programmes to address the issues of protection, prevention and prosecution. The economic dimension of trafficking in persons and its root causes are also addressed through projects aimed at creating job opportunities, promoting entrepreneurship and involving the private sector in activities designed to counter such trafficking.

42. OSCE has cooperated with the Council of Europe and participated as an observer in the initiative of the ad hoc committee on action against trafficking in human beings to draft the Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

43. Several high-level conferences and expert workshops on issues such as victim protection and assistance, residence/asylum status for victims and trafficking in children have been organized in order to exchange experiences and promote best practices, identify priorities and add value to the activities of all international stakeholders.

44. The Alliance against Trafficking in Persons is a forum for dialogue among international organizations active in the area of fighting trafficking in human beings; the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is a partner in that Alliance.

18. Organization of American States: the Inter-American Commission of Women

45. The Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States has carried out research, training workshops, national seminars and capacity-building activities through a project on trafficking in women and children for the purposes of exploitation in the Americas. Activities have been carried out in the region of Central America and the Caribbean, as well as at the national level in Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Mexico and Venezuela, to raise awareness of such trafficking, to build capacity and providing assistance to victims of such trafficking, to stimulate regional cooperation and information-sharing and to encourage the development of procedures for countering such trafficking. National seminars have been held, in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration, on trafficking in persons, as well as on border control, law enforcement and prosecution.

46. Pursuant to its resolution 225, on fighting the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women, adolescents and children, the Inter-American Commission of Women, together with the Inter-American Children's Institute, the United Nations, the International Organization for Migration and other related international organizations, studies integral cooperation mechanisms among States to ensure the provision of protection and assistance to victims, the prevention of crime and the prosecution of its perpetrators. A regional conference on trafficking in persons will be held in 2005, bringing together experts, law enforcement officials, civil society and international organizations, among others, to analyse the problem in the Americas, share information on progress made and coordinate efforts among member States.

C. Legal technical assistance carried out by members of the Inter-Departmental Group to Implement the Action Plan "An Era of Application of International Law"

47. The information below has been provided by the Office of Legal Affairs in the capacity of the Chair of the Inter-Departmental Group to Implement the Action Plan "An Era of Application of International Law".

1. Department for Disarmament Affairs

48. The Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat delivers advisory and counselling assistance, including on the procedural and substantive aspects of the implementation of multilateral treaties relating to disarmament. Legal assistance is delivered in collaboration with the Office of Legal Affairs. Legal technical assistance is delivered through the United Nations disarmament fellowship, a training and advisory services programme aimed at increasing expertise on arms limitation and disarmament issues, training 30 participants each year.

2. Office of Legal Affairs

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea

49. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs assists in the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law

of the Sea^d through advice, studies and research, as well as training, fellowship and technical assistance. It has assisted in the establishment of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea and the International Seabed Authority and continues to provide assistance to those institutions.

Treaty Section

50. Legal advice and assistance on matters related to treaty law and practice have been provided by the Treaty Section of the Office of Legal Affairs. The assistance provided by the Treaty Section includes assistance in the undertaking of treaty actions and the registration of treaties; the organization of seminars on treaty law and practices; the organization of treaty events; and the maintenance and updating of online information on treaties deposited with the Secretary-General.

3. Department of Economic and Social Affairs

51. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat delivers legal technical assistance in the development of legislation, which may include the reform of law related to civil service, water resource management and energy. Assistance is also provided on judicial reform and the strengthening of the judiciary. Legal technical assistance is delivered through advisory services related to social development, statistics, population, gender in development and sustainable development. The Department also organizes workshops and training seminars, as well as fellowships and the deployment of long-term experts.

Women's Rights Section

52. Through its Women's Rights Section, the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs provides technical assistance with regard to participation in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex) and its Optional Protocol (Assembly resolution 54/4, annex) at the request of Member States. The Secretariat assists Member States in fulfilling the reporting obligation and requirements of the Convention, including the development of legislation. It also assists in the development of institutions through capacity-building for judicial officers and judges. During the past three years, training workshops have been organized in Benin, Cameroon, New Zealand and Palau. An international judicial colloquium for over 100 judges was held in 1999 on the use of human rights treaties in domestic decision-making.

4. United Nations Environment Programme

53. The United Nations Environment Programme provides long-term strategic guidance for activities in the field of environmental law, including technical assistance to ensure participation in relevant forums for negotiation and to promote the implementation of international environmental law. Legal advice and assistance in developing national environmental laws and institutions are provided, especially to developing countries and to countries with economies in transition. Regional and subregional workshops on environmental law are held for institutions at the national, regional and global levels to promote environmental law.

5. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

54. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights provides assistance and advice to Member States, upon request, regarding participation in human rights instruments and reporting on the implementation of treaty provisions. Training seminars and workshops on human rights, norms and the core international human rights treaties are provided through field offices, country and regional projects, headquarters staff and consultants for judges, lawyers, prosecutors, police, prison personnel and other relevant personnel. Governments also receive advice on the establishment of independent national human rights institutions.

6. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

55. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees provides assistance in developing national implementing legislation in order to promote accession to the international treaties on refugees. Training is provided to government officials and others dealing with issues relating to refugee status determination and refugee protection, with a view to promoting the creation of fair and efficient asylum procedures.

7. United Nations Children's Fund

56. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) promotes the ratification of treaties and optional protocols relevant to the realization of children's rights through advising and giving assistance to Governments in the development of national legislation and enhancing institutional awareness of juvenile justice issues. UNICEF promotes alternatives to deprivation of liberty for children; carries out birth registration campaigns; provides assistance with regard to separated children, identification and registration, family tracing, reunification and adoption; protects women and children from sexual exploitation and abuse in humanitarian crises and human trafficking; provides advice on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes for child soldiers and reconciliation; identifies good practices and creates national capacity for reporting obligations under international human rights and children's rights treaties. Through the UNICEF country programmes of cooperation, training is provided on juvenile justice issues and child rights to judges, lawyers, law enforcement officials, social workers, investigators, prosecutors, truth commissioners and peacekeepers.

8. United Nations Development Programme*Bureau for Development Policy*

57. The Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme provides global policy advice and access to justice through the drafting of policy, the provision of technical assistance and the assessment of national and regional justice sectors. The Bureau also promotes human rights legislation and the assessment of commerce and trade legislation and provides policy advice on electoral and constitutional legislation. It also provides training to promote institutional reform and strengthening of courts, prosecutors, electoral oversight bodies and parliaments for sustainable human development.

Notes

^a *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9-20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.*

^b S/22393 and Corr.1, annex I.

^c Council of Europe, *Treaty Series*, No. 197.

^d United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1833, No. 13863.

Annex II

Status of responses to the questionnaire submitted by the Secretariat to States parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and 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 Convention

(As at 25 August 2005)

<i>Country grouping</i>	<i>Organized Crime Convention</i>		<i>Trafficking in Persons Protocol^a</i>		<i>Migrants Protocol^b</i>	
	<i>Number of States parties</i>	<i>Number of States that have responded to the questionnaire</i>	<i>Number of States parties</i>	<i>Number of States that have responded to the questionnaire</i>	<i>Number of States parties</i>	<i>Number of States that have responded to the questionnaire</i>
African States	34	9	27	5	24	4
Asian States	15	7	8	3	8	3
Eastern European States	18	13	18	10	18	11
Latin American and Caribbean States	22	8	20	8	15	7
Western European and other States	18	13	14	11	13	10
Least developed countries	24	2	18	1	15	1

^a Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex II).

^b Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III).

Annex III

**Voluntary contributions to the United Nations Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in support of the
negotiation of the United Nations Convention against
Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto
and the promotion of their ratification, 1999-2005**

(United States dollars)

<i>Donor</i>	<i>Amount paid</i>
<i>Member States</i>	
Austria	35 956
Canada	171 155
France	200 123
Greece	30 000
Italy	689 611
Japan	827 410
Monaco	16 432
Norway	13 046
Poland	19 726
United States of America	816 500
<i>Others</i>	
Asia Crime Prevention Foundation	55 243
Total voluntary contributions	2 875 202