

Seventy-eighth session

Third Committee

Agenda item 107

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution

Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

Document [A/C.3/78/L.12/Rev.1](#)

SDG Target 5.2.

SDG Target 8.7.

SDG Target 16.2.

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

The text of the Resolution strongly condemns trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as a severe violation of human rights and sustainable development. Despite global efforts, trafficking remains a significant challenge, requiring a united and comprehensive approach. It emphasizes that all states have an obligation to prevent, investigate, and punish traffickers while ensuring protection and assistance for victims.

The United Nations Global Plan of Action

The Resolution aligns with the principles outlined in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, recognizing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as a grave violation of human rights and sustainable development. It emphasizes the imperative for all states to uphold their commitment to prevent, investigate, and penalize traffickers, while prioritizing the protection and assistance of victims.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, there's a heightened need for collaborative efforts at the international level to address both health emergencies and trafficking effectively. The Resolution recalls the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly the eradication of violence against women and children and the elimination of forced labor and child slavery. It underscores the significance of relevant international agreements and conventions, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in combating trafficking.

Moreover, the Resolution acknowledges the importance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action, stressing the necessity for its comprehensive implementation. This involves promoting universal ratification of relevant conventions and protocols, strengthening political and legal commitments,

fostering awareness, and encouraging cooperation among stakeholders. These efforts are deemed essential to prevent trafficking, safeguard victims, and prosecute offenders.

Additionally, the Resolution recognizes various thematic focuses of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on trafficking in persons, emphasizing the need for coordinated responses and partnerships among governmental and non-governmental actors, civil society, and the private sector. It highlights the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in providing technical assistance and underscores the importance of evidence-based approaches and data gathering to combat trafficking effectively.

The Resolution calls for continued efforts to support the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action, urging governments to protect the rights of trafficking victims and comply with international humanitarian and human rights laws. It emphasizes the importance of capacity-building, inter-agency partnerships, and cooperation with relevant international organizations to address trafficking comprehensively.

Finally, the Resolution underscores the significance of **ongoing research, information-sharing, and reporting mechanisms** to assess progress and enhance efforts against trafficking. It encourages **contributions to the voluntary trust fund for trafficking victims** and stresses the importance of **providing standardized data on trafficking patterns for informed decision-making**. Ultimately, it requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the Resolution, including recommendations for further action against trafficking.

Specific Calls to action:

Prevention, Investigation, and Punishment: Call on all states to prevent, investigate, and punish traffickers while ensuring protection and assistance for victims.

International Cooperation: Emphasize the need for international cooperation to effectively address both health emergencies and trafficking, especially in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Implementation of Global Plans and Agreements: Advocate for the full implementation of international agreements and global plans, such as the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators.

Coordination of Efforts: Stress the importance of coordinating efforts among various bodies and stakeholders to combat trafficking effectively.

Protection of Trafficking Victims: Urge governments to protect the rights of trafficking victims and comply with international humanitarian and human rights laws.

Support for Inter-Agency Coordination: Support the efforts of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and encourage cooperation among stakeholders.

Capacity-Building and Training: Call for intensified international cooperation, including through training and technical assistance, to combat trafficking effectively.

Ratification and Implementation of Conventions: Urge Member States to ratify relevant conventions and protocols and emphasize the importance of their implementation.

Support for Special Rapporteurs and Mechanisms: Encourage cooperation with various special rapporteurs and mechanisms focused on trafficking and related issues.

Contribution to Trust Funds: Encourage contributions to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for trafficking victims managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Data Collection and Information Sharing: Highlight the importance of ongoing studies on emerging trends in trafficking and the need for information-sharing while respecting legal frameworks and privacy.

Family Reunification and Network Establishment: Support measures to support family reunification for trafficking victims, especially children, and the establishment of a network of national mechanisms to address trafficking consistently and share best practices.

General Summary of the Resolution

The text of the Resolution strongly condemns trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as a severe violation of human rights and sustainable development. Despite global efforts, trafficking remains a significant challenge, requiring a united and comprehensive approach. It emphasizes that all states have an obligation to prevent, investigate, and punish traffickers while ensuring protection and assistance for victims.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for international cooperation to address both health emergencies and trafficking effectively. It recalls the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including eliminating violence against women and girls, eradicating forced labor and child slavery, and ending exploitation and trafficking of children. Additionally, it mentions relevant international agreements such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols, highlighting their importance in combating trafficking.

The Resolution also acknowledges the adoption of important international conventions and protocols, such as the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention and the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, addressing the urgent need to eliminate child labor and combat trafficking.

Furthermore, it recalls the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, emphasizing the importance of its full implementation. This plan aims to promote universal ratification of relevant conventions and protocols, strengthen political and legal commitments, facilitate coordinated responses at various levels, adopt a human rights-based approach, raise awareness, and foster cooperation among stakeholders. These efforts are crucial to prevent trafficking, protect victims, and prosecute perpetrators.

Numerous resolutions from various bodies such as the General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Human Rights Council, and Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice concerning trafficking in persons and related issues are also noted. These resolutions emphasize the importance of coordinating efforts to combat trafficking, promoting effective measures and international cooperation, protecting victims, especially women and children, and addressing various aspects of trafficking, including organ trafficking, technology misuse, and business operations. They demonstrate ongoing global commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by trafficking in persons.

The text welcomes the adoption of the **2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons**, highlighting Member States' strong commitment to ending trafficking. It notes references to trafficking prevention and child vulnerabilities in the Kyoto Declaration and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

Recognizing the link between migration and trafficking, the text acknowledges the role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in fostering global cooperation. It appreciates the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Coordination Group in 2021, 2022, and 2023,

including convening high-level events, providing joint submissions, and addressing trafficking in humanitarian settings and child trafficking.

Various thematic focuses of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on trafficking in persons are highlighted, including technology, trafficking in humanitarian settings and conflicts, vulnerability to trafficking, organ removal, migration's relationship with trafficking, and preventing trafficking in public procurement. The importance of strengthening coordination among stakeholders, including governmental and non-governmental actors, civil society, victims, survivors, the private sector, and trade unions, is emphasized.

The role of the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in combating trafficking**, providing technical assistance, and addressing trafficking in sport is emphasized. There's an expressed need for evidence-based responses and data gathering on trafficking in sport.

The text stresses the importance of global partnerships, bilateral and regional cooperation, and access to justice and protections for victims. **It acknowledges the disproportionate impact of trafficking on women and girls, the role of discrimination in fueling trafficking, and the potential of technology to prevent trafficking while expressing concerns about its misuse by traffickers.**

The importance of establishing common frameworks to align activities and assess progress in combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims' rights is emphasized. The value of evidence-based programs and practices, including guidelines and toolkits developed by various organizations, is highlighted. Efforts by Member States, UN agencies, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to combat trafficking, particularly focusing on women and children, are welcomed, with an emphasis on enhancing cooperation and sharing knowledge.

Capacity-building is affirmed as crucial, with a call for intensified international cooperation, including through training and technical assistance. The Khartoum process and the Third Work Plan for a Comprehensive Response to Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere are noted for their contributions to combating trafficking.

The importance of **global compacts on migration and refugees**, along with efforts to combat trafficking in the context of global migration, is acknowledged.

The establishment of the **United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking is reaffirmed**, emphasizing the importance of humanitarian, legal, and financial aid to victims, managed by various organizations.

Regarding specific actions, the text acknowledges reports from the Secretary-General and Special Rapporteurs on trafficking in persons, contemporary forms of slavery, and the sale and sexual exploitation of children.

It recognizes the role of the **Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime** in combating trafficking and reviews its resolutions related to trafficking. Urging Member States to ratify relevant conventions and protocols, it emphasizes the importance of their implementation.

It calls for continued efforts by stakeholders to contribute to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Governments are urged to protect

the rights of trafficking victims and comply with international humanitarian and human rights laws. Past high-level meetings to appraise progress in implementing the Global Plan of Action are recalled, with support reiterated for the **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. Cooperation with relevant international organizations and the participation of Member States in relevant meetings to combat trafficking are encouraged.

Additionally, the text acknowledges the Inter-Agency Coordination Group's Plan of Action, endorsed in December 2020, and highlights the significance of inter-agency partnerships in combating trafficking. The inclusion of new members and partners in the Coordination Group is welcomed, with invitations extended to regional and international organizations to join and co-chair the group.

The importance of ongoing studies on emerging trends in trafficking is noted, along with the need for information-sharing while respecting legal frameworks and privacy.

Member States are urged to support the implementation of international instruments and the Global Plan of Action, with calls for voluntary contributions. Measures to combat trafficking, including targeted awareness campaigns and specialized training for law enforcement, are encouraged, particularly regarding online recruitment, child sexual exploitation, and abuse materials.

Addressing vulnerabilities to trafficking, especially in conflict situations, is highlighted, with a focus on ensuring accountability, preventing impunity, and providing access to justice for victims. The need to address trafficking in global supply chains, prevent irregular migration, and create pathways for safe migration to reduce vulnerability to trafficking is emphasized.

Cooperation with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on trafficking issues is encouraged, as well as cooperation with various special rapporteurs and mechanisms focused on trafficking and related issues.

Measures to support family reunification for trafficking victims, especially children, are called for, along with the establishment of a network of national mechanisms to address trafficking consistently and share best practices.

Continued efforts to collect information and host consultative meetings are requested, along with continued encouragement for contributions to the voluntary trust fund for trafficking victims managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The upcoming publication of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and the importance of providing standardized data on trafficking patterns are highlighted, with encouragement to update guidelines and tools related to trafficking prevention and victim protection.

Finally, the Secretary-General is requested to report on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations for enhancing efforts against trafficking.



Louise McLeod, Global Impact Convener

11.2023

United Nations Third Committee Resolution On Human Trafficking

Comments from NGO Committee to Stop Trafficking in Persons

From our perspective, the UN continues to miss an important concept regarding ending human trafficking and that is, it will not stop until people literally do not make money off of the backs of others. At \$236 billion annually in illicit profits, awareness isn't prevention!