

ECOSOC Resolution 2006/27

Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power,¹

Taking note of guideline 8, Special measures for the protection and support of child victims of trafficking, contained in the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,²

Recalling the Convention on the Rights of the Child,³ and noting the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to that Convention on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,⁴

Recalling also the International Labour Organization Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), which prohibits forced or obligatory labour of all people under the age of 18,

Recalling further paragraphs 4 and 13 of the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,⁵ adopted at the high-level segment of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 18 to 25 April 2005,

Recalling the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime⁶ and, in particular, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,⁷

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 58/137 of 22 December 2003, on strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking,

Recalling further the note by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on joint action to curb transnational crime,⁸

Condemning trafficking in persons as an abhorrent form of modern-day slavery and as an act that is contrary to universal human rights,

Decrying the treatment of human beings as commodities to be bartered, bought or sold by traffickers, in particular exploiters,

¹ General Assembly resolution 40/34, annex.

² See E/2002/68/Add.1.

³ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

⁴ General Assembly resolution 54/263, annex II.

⁵ General Assembly resolution 60/177, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex I.

⁷ *Ibid.*, annex II.

⁸ CEB/2005/HLCP/IX/CRP.7, annex A.

Deeply concerned at the worldwide occurrence of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation of all kinds by transnational organized criminal groups, many of which are also involved in other forms of illegal activity, including trafficking in firearms, money-laundering, drug trafficking and corruption,

Profoundly alarmed by the fact that trafficking in persons is a growing and profitable trade in most parts of the world, aggravated by, inter alia, poverty, armed conflict, inadequate social and economic conditions and demand in the illicit labour and sex markets,

Expressing dismay at the ability of criminal networks to avoid punishment while preying on the vulnerabilities of their victims,

Noting the distinctions and interlinkages between the two criminal behaviours of trafficking in persons, as set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and of smuggling of migrants, as set forth in the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁹

Convinced of the urgent need for broad and concerted international cooperation among all Member States, especially among related countries of origin, transit and destination, employing a multidisciplinary, balanced and global approach, including adequate technical assistance, in order to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation between Member States, especially among related countries of origin, transit and destination, and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society, is essential to counter effectively the threat of trafficking in persons,

Convinced that civil society, including non-governmental organizations, can play a role in raising awareness, in reducing existing and future opportunities for victimization in the field of trafficking and in assisting Governments in promoting the protection of victims through comprehensive and non-stigmatizing social and appropriate economic assistance to victims, including in the areas of health, education, housing and employment,

Welcoming efforts of Member States, in particular countries of origin, transit and destination, to raise awareness of the seriousness of the crime of trafficking and of its various forms, as well as of the role of the public in preventing victimization and assisting victims of trafficking,

Bearing in mind the establishment of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in accordance with article 32 of the Convention, which has now taken up its work in that area,

⁹ General Assembly resolution 55/25, annex III.

Noting the thematic discussion on trafficking in human beings, especially women and children, held by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twelfth session,¹⁰ and the panel discussion on human trafficking held by the Human Security Network on 17 October 2005 as a side event during the second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

1. *Urges* Member States that have not done so to consider taking measures to ratify or accede to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁶ the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,⁷ and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;⁴

2. *Urges* all Member States:

(a) To criminalize trafficking in persons;

(b) To promote cooperation among law enforcement authorities in combating trafficking in persons;

(c) To ensure the security and control of travel or identity documents;

(d) To establish the offence of trafficking in persons as a predicate offence for money-laundering offences;

3. *Invites* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic law, *inter alia*:

(a) To fight sexual exploitation with a view to abolishing it, by prosecuting and punishing those who engage in that activity, not including the victims of trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation;

(b) To raise awareness, especially through training, among criminal justice officials and others, as appropriate, of the needs of victims of trafficking and of the crucial role of victims in detecting and prosecuting that crime by, *inter alia*:

(i) Investigating all cases reported by victims, preventing further victimization and, in general, treating victims with respect;

(ii) Treating victims and witnesses with sensitivity throughout criminal judicial proceedings, in accordance with articles 24 and 25 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and article 6, paragraph 2, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, where applicable;

4. *Also invites* Member States to adopt measures, in accordance with their domestic law, *inter alia*:

¹⁰ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 10 (E/2003/30), chap. II.*

(a) To provide assistance and protection to victims of trafficking in persons, including measures to permit victims of trafficking to remain in their territory temporarily or permanently, as appropriate;

(b) To promote the legislative and other measures necessary to establish a wide range of assistance, including legal, psychological, medical and social assistance to the actual victims of trafficking, subject to the determination of the existence of victimization;

(c) To provide humane treatment for all victims of trafficking, taking into account their age, gender and particular needs, in accordance with article 6, paragraphs 3 and 4, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, where applicable;

(d) To assist in the reintegration of victims of trafficking into society;

(e) To develop guidelines for the protection of victims of trafficking before, during and after criminal proceedings, as appropriate;

5. *Urges* Member States to employ a comprehensive approach to combating trafficking in persons, incorporating law enforcement efforts and the protection of victims and preventive measures, including measures against activities that derive profit from the exploitation of victims of trafficking and, where appropriate, the confiscation and seizure of the proceeds of trafficking;

6. *Calls upon* Member States to collaborate with a view to preventing trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of sexual exploitation, through:

(a) Improved technical cooperation to strengthen local and national institutions aimed at preventing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in countries of origin;

(b) Information campaigns on the techniques and methods of traffickers, programmes of education aimed at prospective targets, including those who create the demand, as well as vocational training in social skills and assistance in the reintegration of victims of trafficking into society;

(c) A focus on regions in post-conflict situations and regions of natural disaster, where patterns of human trafficking are increasingly recognized as a serious problem, and the early incorporation of measures to combat trafficking, including the training and establishment of standards of behaviour of military and civilian personnel involved in peacekeeping operations;

(d) Encouraging Member States to participate in regional forums as a means to develop practical strategies to combat trafficking in persons and to protect victims;

7. *Urges* Member States to take measures against trafficking in persons, especially women and children, that are consistent with internationally recognized principles of non-discrimination and that respect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of victims;

8. *Invites* Member States to set up mechanisms for coordination and collaboration between governmental and non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society, with a view to responding to the immediate needs of victims of trafficking;

9. *Also invites* Member States to allocate appropriate resources for victim services, public awareness campaigns and law enforcement activities directed at eliminating trafficking and exploitation and to foster international cooperation, including adequate technical assistance and capacity-building programmes, to improve the ability of Member States to take effective measures against trafficking in persons;

10. *Encourages* Member States to examine the role of the exploitation of the prostitution of others in encouraging trafficking in persons;

11. *Also encourages* Member States to adopt legislative or other measures to reduce the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking in persons, including by cooperating with non-governmental organizations and civil society and by raising public awareness of how all forms of exploitation degrade their victims and the related risks of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

12. *Further encourages* Member States to take measures, including raising public awareness, to discourage and reduce, especially among men, the demand that fosters sexual exploitation as well as other forms of human trafficking, in accordance with article 9, paragraph 5, of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, where applicable;

13. *Encourages* Member States to target the link between trafficking in persons for purposes of all forms of exploitation and other types of crime;

14. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its close cooperation and coordination with relevant international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other members of civil society;

15. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to promote the ratification of, and to assist, upon request, Member States in the implementation of, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office;¹¹

16. *Also requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to organize a meeting on technical assistance for Member States in order to coordinate, with due regard to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the work of agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant intergovernmental organizations, within available extrabudgetary resources, not excluding the use of existing resources from the regular budget of the Office;¹¹

¹¹ This language does not provide a basis for an increase in the regular budget or requests for supplemental increases.

17. *Encourages* Member States to make voluntary contributions to further strengthen and support the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, in particular in the area of technical assistance activities;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session and thereafter to share its report with the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

*41st plenary meeting
27 July 2006*