

## **Mr. Antonio Maria Costa**

United Nations Under-Secretary General, **Antonio Maria Costa**, is the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna (UNOV). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the guardian and custodian of the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. A global leader in the fight against trafficking, UNODC works with governments, the private sector, and NGOs to raise awareness, and enhance the prevention, protection, and prosecution capacities of criminal justice professionals and policymakers. In March 2007, UNODC launched the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking [UN.GIFT], in partnership with the ILO, UNICEF, OHCHR, IOM, and OSCE. UN.GIFT will increase knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of state and non-state actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.

Mr. Costa holds a degree in political science from the University of Turin (1963), a Degree in mathematical economics from the Moscow State University (1967), and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley (1971). From 1969 to 1983, Mr. Costa served as senior economist in the United Nations Department of International Economics and Social Affairs in New York. He was subsequently appointed Under-Secretary-General at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris where he served until 1987. He was a member of the OECD Working Group for financial transactions (later called FATF), a Member of IMF/World Bank Interim Committee and of the G-10 Group for the coordination of economic policy. Between 1987 and 1992, Mr. Costa served at the Commission of the European Union as Director-General for Economics and Finance. In that capacity he served as EU Sherpa for the G8 meetings. He then joined the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD, in London) as Secretary-General where he oversaw political issues, institutional affairs, corporate governance and questions relating to shareholders.

Mr. Costa easily speaks a number of languages, including Russian. Mr. Costa is married with three children, adopted from Italy, Colombia and Ethiopia.