

## Consultations on a Global Plan of Action on trafficking in persons

April 21, 2010

First of all, thank you very much for all the comments that you have sent us. We are extremely encouraged by the various contributions that we have already received from Member States from all regions, UN agencies and the International Organization for Migration, all very constructive.

These comments and contributions have helped us to draft this first version of the Plan of Action against trafficking in persons which, as we shared with you, is essentially a political document. As such, the draft Plan of action:

- promotes the universal ratification of the Convention against transnational organized crime and its Trafficking Protocol,
- reinforces the implementation of the existing instruments *and*
- helps MS to reinforce their national and regional commitments to prevent and combat trafficking in persons
- calls for a better coordination among international organizations, states and other stakeholders
- and calls for awareness raising of the civil society against trafficking.

As you have noticed, the draft plan of action is divided in 4 sections:

paragraphs 1 to 10 contain general provisions, the general framework and references to the main legal instruments;

section 1 covers “prevention” of trafficking in persons;

section 2 covers the protection and assistance to the victims;

section 3 covers the prosecutions aspects and

the fourth and last section deals with strengthening partnerships, we added another “P” for partnership- which means increasing cooperation and coordination among different stakeholders and within the UN system.

This structure follows closely the structure and main pillars of the Palermo Protocol that is “to prevent and combat trafficking, to protect and assist victims, to promote cooperation and coordination”.

In each section we have identified commitments to address trafficking in persons that are consistent with previously agreed legal instruments. Let me underline, again, that this draft does not duplicate, replace or divert attention from the existing legal instruments and surely does not undermine the relevance and importance of international legal binding treaties, namely the Palermo Protocol.

On the contrary, our objective is to reinforce such documents and to promote their universal ratification and effective implementation. Several paragraphs in each section of this draft contain clear references to these crucial legal instruments and to the concrete actions, foreseen by these instruments, to fight trafficking in persons. And it also contains a reference to a review mechanism to measure the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols.

But beyond a law enforcement perspective, this Plan of Action also includes other dimensions that are central to our work, here in New York, at the General Assembly and that, in our view, are certainly an added value to our efforts against trafficking in persons: it introduces a human rights perspective and also a social development perspective which are crucial in the fight against trafficking.

A commitment by the GA to mainstream the issue of trafficking in persons into policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic development, human rights, rule of law, good governance, natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction would certainly be a very concrete achievement.

The draft contains, in this logic, several references to human rights instruments and bodies but also to the work of the Special Rapporteurs. Their work is highlighted throughout the text. The draft also contains a victim approach because the victims' protection should be another central element of our anti-trafficking efforts at the national, regional and international level. In this regard, the Draft Plan of Action includes a very concrete suggestion: a Trust Fund for the rehabilitation and compensation of victims of the most serious forms of trafficking in persons.

And it also contains specific references to the role of civil society, the media and the business sector to promote awareness campaigns because, as Mr. Costa underlined so well at our last meeting while reiterating the need for a Global Action Plan as he did again today: "success will not depend on bureaucrats but on society's willingness to fight modern slavery".

Last but not least, our draft underlines the work done by UNODC and other agencies in the fight against trafficking, calls for a better coordination of efforts and to the mainstream of efforts in the UN system; the draft Plan of Action encourages regional efforts and the exchange of good practices

It also includes a special request to the SG to strengthen the capacity of UNODC to collect information and report periodically on trafficking pattern and flows as well as on best practices and lessons learned from regional initiatives and mechanisms. This will allow UNODC to produce periodically reports such as the one produced in 2009 with data and information on trafficking in persons to calibrate our action.

For the sake of transparency we have also circulated a draft resolution to adopt the Plan of Action which we will discuss at a later stage: it is a very short resolution with only 2 operative paragraphs that encourages Member States, the UN, international and regional organizations, the civil society and the private sector to implement the commitments contained in the Plan of Action.

To conclude, let me repeat what I said at our first meeting: our aim is to approve a Plan of Action in the GA before the summer recess. We are keen to listen to every single delegation and encourage you to participate in an active and positive way in this process of consultations. We realize that we have send out this document at the end of last week and that MS will not be in a position to share detailed comments but I would like to hear your possible preliminary comments to this draft.