



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

23 March 2017

Excellency,

In my letter dated 20 February 2017, I had conveyed a message from the co-facilitators containing a “Zero Draft of the modalities for the High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”. I am now pleased to forward a new letter from the co-facilitators, which includes a compilation of all written inputs received from Member States following the first round of the informal meeting held successfully on 23 February 2017. The co-facilitators also announce that the next informal meeting will be held on Tuesday 28 March at 10.00 a.m. in the ECOSOC Chamber, followed by two further such meetings during the month of April.

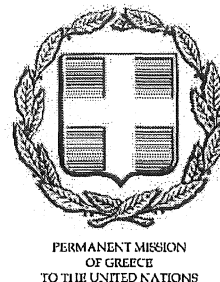
I encourage the active participation and engagement of all Member States in the upcoming informal on 28 March.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Thomson'.

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives
and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations
New York.



Thursday, 16 March 2017

Excellency,

Following the first *informal* of 23 February 2017 to discuss the organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to appraise the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, we thank Member States for the constructive exchange of views and for submitting written inputs by the 9 March deadline.

Based on the inputs received, please find attached a compilation text of comments received on the draft modalities resolution to facilitate further discussion.

We would like to share the timelines that will guide our future work. It is our intention to hold the second *informal* on **Tuesday, 28 March, at 10:00am** in the ECOSOC Chamber, which will be followed by a third *informal* on **Wednesday, 12 April**, and a final *informal* on **Thursday, 20 April**, if necessary, in order to conclude the review of the Modalities of the resolution.

We look forward to your continued support and active engagement during the informals.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Catherine Boura
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations



Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The General Assembly,

PP1 *Recalling* its resolution 70/179 of 17 December 2015, in which it recalled the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013 to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons¹, and its decision to appraise on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decided to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate, *(based on PP1, A/Res/67/260 and OP4, A/Res/70/179)*

PP2 *Recalling also* its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, by which it adopted the Global Plan of Action, *(PP2, A/Res/67/260)*

PP3 *Recalling further* its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime² and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime³, *(PP3, A/Res/67/260)*

New PP4 (Australia, Canada, Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand; hereinafter Australia+4)

***Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and recognizing the direct relevance of the 2030 Agenda for the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,**

New PP4 (EU)

***Reaffirming* its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and recognizing that the**

¹ Resolution 64/293.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

³ Ibid, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

implementation of Agenda 2030 will contribute to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will be held from Monday, 2 October to Tuesday, 3 October 2017, and will consist of an opening plenary meeting on 2 October from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., plenary meetings on 2 October from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on 3 October from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting after the list of speakers has been exhausted, as well as two consecutive interactive panel discussions on 2 October in the afternoon; *(based on OP1, A/Res/67/260)*

Timing of the Meeting:

- Australia+4: flexible on timing
- Mexico: flexible on having the meeting during the last week of September instead of the first days of October
- Bangladesh: immediately after completion of the UNGA High-Level Week
- China: end of September
- India: immediately before or during the General Debate Segment or between 12-29 September 2017
- South Africa: 14 and 15 September 2017 OR weekend of 16 and 17 September 2017

Length of the Meeting:

- Bangladesh, supported by Australia+4: may be limited to only one day
- China: flexible on having a two-day meeting

Plenary and Panel Discussions:

- Bangladesh, supported by India: plenary and panel discussions in parallel, with continuous plenary segment
- Japan: if additional costs are needed for parallel meetings, oppose having meetings in parallel
- China: prefer moving the panel discussions to the afternoon of second day, after all the plenary meetings have finished
- Mexico: favor that the debate would be distributed over two days to allow for broader discussion

2. *Also decides* that the opening plenary meeting will feature statements by [*Bangladesh: the President of the 71st session of the General Assembly,*] the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [*Australia+4, EU, Mexico supported by Bangladesh, Japan*): **the UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,**] as well as an eminent person actively engaged in the fight against trafficking in persons and [*China: a representative from civil society* **a representative from a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council** (*from OP2, A/Res/67/260*)], at least one of whom should be a survivor of human trafficking; both of whom are to be identified by the President of the Assembly; *(based on OP2, A/Res/67/260)*

3. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the interactive panel discussions to take place on Monday, 2 October 2017, in the afternoon, each chaired by a Member State at the invitation of the President of 71st Session of the General

Assembly, after consultations with regional groups, will be as follows: *(based on OP3, A/Res/67/260)*

(a) Interactive panel discussion 1, which will take place from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., will address the theme “The Global Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals: implementing SDGs 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2”;

[*Mexico*: The Global Plan of Action and **implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**]

[*Russia*: The Global Plan of Action and **prevention and countering trafficking in persons**]

- Bangladesh: at least one more panel discussion on the criminal aspect of the issue

(b) Interactive panel discussion 2, which will take place from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., will address the theme “The Global Plan of Action and protection of and assistance to victims, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children”;

- Mexico: additional panel on the experiences from the survivors of trafficking in persons as spokespeople and network builders for the eradication of this crime, and/or a panel for the analysis of good practices implemented by the private sector to prevent this scourge

(c) The Chairs of the interactive panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting, followed by final remarks by the President of the General Assembly; *(OP3(c), A/Res/67/260)*

(d) In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in each panel discussion will include Member States, observers, representatives of United Nations organizations and entities, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, [*Australia+4*: **national human rights institutions**] as well as of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, [*Russia supported by Japan*: , **academic institutions**] the private sector and the media; *(OP3(d), A/Res/67/260)*

- Bangladesh: include academicians and representatives of renowned think-tanks

4. *Invites* Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level; *(OP2, A/Res/70/290)*

5. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their delegations to the high-level meeting representatives of civil society active in combating trafficking in persons, survivors of trafficking in persons and representatives of the private sector; *(based on OP6, A/Res/67/260)*

6. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies [*Australia+4, EU*: ~~and~~ regional commissions, **the Inter-**

Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, and as well as relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, [*Australia+4, EU supported by Japan: as well as all relevant Special Procedure mandate holders and treaty bodies, in accordance with their respective mandates (from OP12, A/71/L.58)*] to participate in the high-level meeting; (*based on OP7, A/Res/67/260 and OP6, A/Res/70/297*)

- Mexico: include relevant mandate holders, such as the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences and to the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children and on Sexual Violence in Conflict

7. *Also invites* interested representatives of non-governmental organizations [*Mexico: that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*] to register with the Secretariat in order to participate in the high-level meeting; (*based on OP8, A/Res/67/260 and OP6(a), A/71/L.58*)

8. *Also Requests* the President of the General Assembly at its **seventieth seventy-first** session to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions [*Australia+4: national human rights institutions*] and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive [*Russia: round tables panel discussions*], taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States [*Australia+4, EU, Mexico supported by Japan: for their consideration on a non-objection basis⁴ (Bangladesh to retain)*]; (*based on OP6, 70/290*)

- Bangladesh: instead of existing OP 7 & 8, wants the same language on multi-stakeholder participation used in the modalities resolution of the Global Compact on Migration
- China: flexible on the current language without any change; otherwise, request use of agreed language from OP9, A/Res/67/260

9. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, to organize, no later than July 2017, and to preside over, a one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, attended by representatives of Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the Assembly, as well as by non-governmental organizations [*EU supported by Japan: in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,*] invited civil society organizations [*Russia supported by Japan: , academic institutions*] and the private

⁴ [*Australia+4: delete entire footnote; Russia: delete entire footnote in line with A/Res/67/260*] The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will [*EU: on a voluntary basis,*] make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

sector, and requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing; *(based on OP7, A/Res/70/290)*

10. [Possible outcome document];

New OP10 (Belarus)

Further requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session to hold open, transparent and inclusive intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States, through the appointed co-facilitators, with a view to producing for the High Level Meeting a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented outcome document supplementing the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons comprising a set of operational recommendations based upon a review of the implementation of the Plan of Action, including an assessment of the achievements as well as ways to address long-standing and emerging challenges in combatting trafficking in persons, within the framework of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and other relevant United Nations instruments; *(based on OP10, A/Res/70/290 and OP5, A/Res/70/181)

New OP10bis (Belarus)

Decides that:

(a) The process of intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document will be in accordance with the rules of procedure and established practices of the General Assembly; *(OP11(a), A/Res/70/290)*

(b) The initial draft of the outcome document will be prepared by the co-facilitators on the basis of views provided by Member States; *(OP11(b), A/Res/70/290)*

(c) Relevant stakeholders, including civil society, scientific and knowledge-based institutions, parliaments, local authorities and the private sector will be able to contribute views, in particular through informal dialogues to which they will be invited by the co-facilitators; the intergovernmental nature of the negotiations, however, will be fully respected; *(OP11(c), A/Res/70/290)*

(d) United Nations organizations and other relevant entities will be invited to contribute inputs to the co-facilitators through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons under the coordination of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime; *(based on OP 10, A/Res/70/179 and para 59, A/Res/64/293)*

(e) The outcome document of the high-level meeting will be adopted during the opening plenary meeting; *(OP1(c), A/Res/70/290)*

New OP10 (Mexico)

Decides to produce a short, substantive, concise and action-oriented document comprising a set of operational measures on prevention and prosecution areas, as well as on protection of victims, underlying a victim-centered approach, based upon enabling and accelerating the implementation of the commitments of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, to be recommended for adoption at the plenary of the High-Level Meeting on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

New OP10 (South Africa)

Decides that the High-level Meeting shall result in a concise action-oriented outcome document, and requests the President of the General Assembly to produce a draft text in consultation with Member States based on their inputs, as well as inputs from the preparatory process and evidence-based inputs, where relevant, and convene informal consultations at an appropriate date in order to enable sufficient consideration and agreement by Member States prior to the High-level Meeting; (source: OP7, A/Res/65/238)

Outcome Document:

- Bangladesh: forward-looking and more action-oriented outcome document, which may take inputs from the Global Compact on Migration thematic discussion on smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons taking place in Vienna in September 2017
- China: brief and political document, emphasizing the importance of fully implementing the Global Plan, and encouraging international community to do so; should not replace the Global Plan; must be an intergovernmentally-negotiated document
- EU: open to having a concise and action-oriented outcome document
- Turkey: prefers a Chair's summary prepared by the PGA but flexible on having an outcome document
- Australia+4: substantive outcome in the form of a Chair's summary that
 - identifies emerging gaps and challenges that have arisen in the fight against trafficking in persons since the adoption of the Global Plan of Action in 2010;
 - reflects on how the appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action is linked to achieving the 2030 Agenda and relevant targets; and
 - takes into consideration the important role that financial institutions can play in disrupting financial flows associated with modern slavery
- Liechtenstein/Iceland: Chair's summary is enough; wants modern slavery mentioned prominently in the substantive outcome
- Japan: supports US' suggestion not to have an outcome document; PGA's summary is enough

11. **Requests** the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meetings, taking into account the duration of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the representative from civil society to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the interactive panel discussions, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation; (based on OP10, A/Res/67/260)

12. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector entities and other relevant stakeholders to consider supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries, including representatives of non-governmental organizations from those countries, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in this regard; (OP11, A/Res/67/260)

13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting shall be webcast; (OP12, A/Res/67/260)

14. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established by the Global Plan of Action. (OP13, A/Res/67/260)