



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

9 June 2017

Excellency,

I am writing with regard to the General Assembly resolution 71/287, adopted on 4 May 2017, on the 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.

Further to my letter of 24 May 2017, in which I invited Member States to participate in an informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing to be held on 23 June 2017 at Conference Room 4, United Nations Headquarters in New York, I am enclosing herewith, for your consideration, a concept note and a copy of the preliminary programme for the hearing.

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

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

Peter Thomson

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

Concept Note for the Informal Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing in support of the preparatory process towards the High-level Plenary Meeting to Review the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

**New York, 23 June 2017
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 4**

I. Background

In accordance with GA resolution 71/287 on the “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”, a High-Level Meeting of the plenary of the General Assembly will be convened on 27-28 September 2017 to appraise progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293), in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments.

In order to support the inclusive, active and substantive engagement of civil society, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders in the process, the President of the General Assembly will convene an informal interactive multi-stakeholder Hearing on 23 June 2017, pursuant to paragraph 9 of resolution 71/287.

II. Objective

The Hearing will provide all relevant stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute to the process leading to the high-level meeting on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, during a full day of interactive panel discussions that will be attended by representatives of Member States, all observers of the General Assembly, national human rights institutions compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector.

The Hearing should inform Member States, while engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document (a Political Declaration), of the practical experiences shared by civil society and other stakeholders. The Hearing will also provide an opportunity for inputs from those working directly on issues of domestic, regional and international policy, as well as direct humanitarian responses to trafficking in persons. It will give a voice to those who have been directly impacted by trafficking in persons, and will also serve to address critical crosscutting issues relevant for consideration by Member States, including the human rights of survivors, gender perspectives, and the protection of children.

III. Questions

1. What are the critical deficiencies, as well as the opportunities in implementing the Global Plan of Action, including relevant legal instruments?
2. How should the understanding of the root causes of trafficking in persons inform the coordinated efforts to respond? What is the role of civil society, academia, and the private sector in supporting the protection and empowerment of trafficked persons and those vulnerable to being trafficked?

3. In what ways can global responsibility be shared equitably? What are the elements or practicable actions required to realize the Global Plan of Action?
4. How can we provide greater international protection and support for survivors?
5. How can the Global Plan of Action contribute to increasing knowledge of trafficking in persons in general, and of the issues that might be prioritized in the Political Declaration?
6. How can the second appraisal of the Global Plan of Action assist with benchmarking progress made by States in combating trafficking in persons?
7. How can the Global Plan of Action reflect, influence and support consistent and coherent actions by all stakeholders including States, the UN and civil society in any anti-trafficking initiative?

IV. Format

The Multi-stakeholder Hearing will be held over the course of one-day from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm. The Hearing will include an opening and a closing segment, and four interactive panel discussions. The opening and the closing segments will be chaired by President of the General Assembly. The themes for the interactive panel discussions are: (i) A Human-rights-based, survivor-centred approach to trafficking in Persons; (ii) Trafficking in Persons in armed conflict, humanitarian crises and natural disasters; (iii) Trafficking in persons in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda; and, (iv) Effective prosecution of trafficking in persons.

Each panel discussion will be moderated by an expert from an international organisation. The moderator will open and close each panel and ensure the interactive nature of the discussions. The opening remarks from the moderator will be five minutes.

The expert panellists in each panel will make a brief introductory presentation on the theme of the panel (five minutes each). Panellists will briefly frame the issues to be discussed in their panel session, and highlight gaps in policy and implementation, and identify priorities for action.

The presentations of the panellists will be followed by an interactive discussion led by the moderator. The limit for interventions from the floor is three minutes. There will be no pre-inscribed speaker's list.

Participants are encouraged to provide examples of good practices and multi-stakeholder partnerships and to present actions and commitments to inform the Global Plan of Action.

V. Outcome

The outcome will be a President's summary, which will be circulated to Member States and stakeholders.

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM FOR INFORMAL INTERACTIVE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING
IN SUPPORT OF THE PREPARATORY PROCESS TOWARDS THE HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY MEETING
TO REVIEW THE GLOBAL PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS**

New York, 23 June 2017

Morning segment

10:00 – 10:30 Opening segment

Opening remarks by the President of the General Assembly and other invited speakers

10:30 - 11:45 Panel 1: A Human-rights-based, survivor-centred approach to trafficking in Persons

11:45 - 13:00 Panel 2: Trafficking in Persons in armed conflict, humanitarian crises and natural disasters

Afternoon segment

15:00 - 16:25 Panel 3: Trafficking in persons in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

16:25 - 17:50 Panel 4: Effective prosecution of trafficking in persons

Format of the panels:

- Presentations by the panellists
- Interactive discussion from the floor
- Member States, Observers, UN system and other stakeholders will deliver their interventions from the floor, 3 minutes per intervention.
- Moderator will conclude the Panel discussion.

17:50 - 18:00 closing remarks by the President of the General Assembly