



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

10 July 2017

Excellency,

Further to my letter dated 19 June, please find enclosed a letter received on 7 July 2017 from H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar and H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytsverve, Permanent Representative of Belgium co-facilitators of the intergovernmental negotiations with all Member States which aim at producing a short and concise political declaration for adoption at the opening plenary of the high-level meeting on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In their letter, the co-facilitators circulate a second revised version ("Rev.2") of the political declaration to all Member States, also invite all delegations to the third informal consultation to be held on Wednesday, 12 July 2017 at 10.00 a.m. in ECOSOC Chamber.

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

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

Peter Thomson

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



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

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07 July 2017

Excellency,

Further to our meeting of July 6, please find attached a second revised version ("rev2") of the political declaration on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

We very much look forward to discussing this revised text with all delegations on Wednesday, 12 July (10:00 am ECOSOC).

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

H.E. Mr. Marc Pecsteen de Buytswerve
Permanent Representative of Belgium
to the United Nations

H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations

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

Political Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

1. We, the States Members of the United Nations, reaffirm the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and our commitments therein and evince our strong political will to take decisive action to end this heinous crime. *(based on the preambular para and OP13, A/Res/64/293 Annex; and PP10, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1)*

2. We recall and reaffirm our commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognising its integrated and indivisible nature and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes commitments that relate to combatting all forms of trafficking in persons, which are relevant to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and recognize the importance of partnerships in this regard. *(based on PP16, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1; PP8, A/Res/71/167; and PP7, A/Res/71/167)*

3. We reiterate our strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which continues to pose a serious challenge to humanity, impairs the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, and a challenge to sustainable development, and which requires the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes partnerships and measures to prevent it, to prosecute and punish the traffickers and to protect the victims, as well as a criminal justice response commensurate to the serious nature of the offence. *(based on PP1 and PP2, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1)*

4. We reaffirm our commitment to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination, social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children. We reiterate our commitment to promote education and awareness-raising campaigns to prevent trafficking in persons. *(based on OP12 and OP18, A/Res/64/293 Annex)*

5. We reaffirm the crucial importance of universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urge Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention and its Protocols, as a matter of priority. We urge States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively, and welcome the decision of the Conference of the Parties to the UN

Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime to continue the process of establishing a mechanism for the review of the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. *(based on PP16(a), OP3, and PP7, A/Res/64/293; and OP2, CTOC/COP/2016/15)*

6. We also reaffirm the importance of universal ratification and implementation of other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons. *(based on PP16(a), A/Res/64/293; PP6(a), E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1; PP9(a), A/Res/70/179; and PP7(a), A/Res/68/192).*

7. We reaffirm our recognition that “trafficking in persons” shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation, which includes, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, as set forth in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. *(ref: OP2, A/Res/64/293 Annex; and Article 3(a), Palermo Protocol)*

8. We express solidarity with and compassion for survivors of trafficking, call for full respect of their human rights and encourage further consideration of incorporating their perspective and experience in all efforts to combat human trafficking. We will provide appropriate assistance and services for the recovery and rehabilitation of trafficked persons, working closely with civil society. We will also undertake appropriate measures for access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities. *(based on OP22, S/Res/2331 (2016) and para 11, S/PRST/2015/25; as well as various paras of A/Res/64/293).*

9. We commit to intensify our efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters trafficking, especially of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability. *(based on OP13, A/Res/71/167)*

10. We reaffirm our commitment to continue our efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, wherever it may occur, and to strengthen cooperation among Member States in combating crimes that might be connected with trafficking in persons, including money-laundering, corruption, smuggling of migrants and all forms of organized crime, including through more systematic use of freezing assets for the

purpose of eventual confiscation. *(based on OP13, OP43, OP45 and OP48, A/Res/64/293 Annex)*

11. We note that the scale of global resourcing to fight trafficking in persons does not match the scale of the challenge. We reaffirm our strong support for the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, established in accordance with the Global Plan of Action, aimed at providing victims of trafficking in persons with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and we invite all stakeholders to contribute to the trust fund, including through the announcement of pledges at high level appraisals of the Global Plan of Action. *(based on OP38, A/Res/64/293 Annex)*

12. We stress the need to ensure overall organization and coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system to respond to trafficking in persons, especially in ensuring support to Member States. In this regard, we urge the Secretary-General to continue efforts to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system, including through the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) under the coordination of UNODC. *(based on OP59, A/Res/64/293 Annex; OP12-13, A/Res/61/180; OP8, A/Res/68/192; OP10, A/Res/70/179; and PP7 and OP8, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1)*

13. We recognize the important role played by ICAT in the UN system and invite ICAT to continue to increase its activities related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and, to this end, to incorporate aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and to consider how future activities will be coordinated and how the duplication of efforts will be avoided. We encourage ICAT to expand its working group to include UN agencies that are not active in the Group but have a role in addressing trafficking in persons. *(based on OP7, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1)*

14. We reaffirm the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations. *(based on OP9, A/Res/64/293 Annex; PP17, A/Res/70/179; and PP14, A/Res/68/192).*

15. We reaffirm the important work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration, as well as the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of

Women, the Office the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Criminal Police Organization, in the global fight against trafficking in persons. *(based on OP10, A/Res/64/293)*

16. We reiterate the need for improved data collection and analysis of trafficking in persons, disaggregated by sex, age and other relevant factors, including the form of exploitation, to effectively counter human trafficking. We thus recognize the importance of improved data collection by national authorities, and will enhance international cooperation to this end. We will do so consistent with our national legislation on data protection, if applicable, and our international obligations related to privacy, as applicable. *(based on OP40, A/Res/71/1)*

17. We acknowledge the importance of the biennial Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, and request UNODC to continue to collect information on patterns, forms and flows of trafficking in persons, at the national, regional and international levels, in a balanced, reliable and comprehensive manner to be published in the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, and in ongoing research to estimate the prevalence of trafficking in persons in close cooperation and collaboration with Member States. *(based on OP5, E/CN.15/2017/L.2/Rev.1 and OP60, A/Res/64/293 Annex)*

18. We recall the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, which, inter alia, recognized that refugees and migrants in large movements are at greater risk of being trafficked and of being subjected to forced labour. We will provide support for the victims of human trafficking and work to prevent human trafficking among those affected by displacement, including through targeted measures to identify victims of human trafficking or those at risk of trafficking. We reiterate our commitment to take steps to address the particular vulnerabilities of women and children during the journey from country of origin to country of arrival, including their potential exposure to human trafficking, including through the development of age-and-gender sensitive policies and programmes *(based on OP29, OP35 and OP36, A/Res/71/1; and OP34, A/Res/71/167)*

19. We express our serious concern that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked and recognise that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects women and children, and call upon Member States to establish comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures to protect women and children who have been trafficked from revictimization and provide appropriate assistance and protection in the best interest of the child to child victims of trafficking in persons or to those at risk of being trafficked. *(based on PP17, A/Res/71/167; Para12, CSW60 Agreed Conclusions; PP2 and OP7, E/CN.15/2017/L.9/Rev.1; and OP37, A/Res/64/293 Annex)*

20. We recognize that the issue of trafficking in persons in conflict situations and humanitarian emergencies, including natural disasters, requires further attention. We call for serious consideration to be given to training of all peacekeeping personnel to be deployed in peacekeeping operations in conflict and post-conflict

zones on responding to trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict and on gender expertise, child protection and sexual exploitation. We encourage all UN entities and bodies to train their personnel and build technical capacity to assess situations for instances of trafficking in persons in armed conflict, humanitarian crises and natural disaster and that they work together to identify, prevent and respond effectively to victims of trafficking. *(based on OP19 and OP20, S/Res/2331 (2016); and OP12, A/Res/64/293 Annex).*

21. We express our deep concern about the increasing links between armed groups, including terrorist groups, and human trafficking, coercing women and girls into marriages or sexual slavery, and pressing men and boys to act as forced labour or combatants. We also note the increasing attempts by armed groups to normalize human trafficking as a method of finance, a tactic of war, and an element of terrorist narrative. *(based on UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2016; S/Res/2195 (2014), S/Res/2253 (2015), and S/Res/2331 (2016))*

22. We note with concern the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies, particularly the Internet, to facilitate the trafficking of persons, and emphasize the importance of countering such use while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms including the right to privacy and in compliance with other obligations under international law. *(based on PP14, S/Res/2331 (2016))*

23. We condemn the involvement of criminal groups and unethical medical personnel in trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal. *(based on PP7, CCPCJ resolution 23/2 (2014))*

24. We reiterate, in the strongest terms possible, the importance of strengthening collective action to end human trafficking by Member States, including through regional, subregional and cross-regional mechanisms, stakeholder partnerships with national coordination mechanisms, the United Nations System, regional and international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society, including academic institutions and faith-based organizations, the private sector, the media, parliamentarians, national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris principles, the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, and welcome their continued efforts to implement the Global Plan of Action and this political declaration. *(based on OP9, A/Res/71/287; and OP39 and OP69, A/Res/71/1)*

25. We will promote partnerships and engage the business community and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in developing and implementing sustainable initiatives to prevent and combat human trafficking in supply chains, taking into account the views and experiences of trafficked persons in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating such initiatives, and encourage businesses to support efforts to combat human trafficking. We urge the Secretary-General to ensure that all UN procurement is free from human trafficking. *(based on OP6(g) and 7(a), A/HRC/23/L.8)*

26. We recognize that arrangements are needed to ensure systematic follow-up to and review of all of the commitments we are making today, including in the quadrennial high-level meetings of the General Assembly to appraise progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action. *(based on OP6, A/Res/64/293; OP88, A/Res/71/1; and OP4, A/Res/70/179)*