



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

8 July 2021

Excellency,

Further to my letter of 24 June 2021, regarding the informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing to be hosted on the remote simultaneous interpretation platform Interpretify on Tuesday, 13 July 2021, from 10 a.m. to noon and from 3 to 5 p.m., I have the pleasure to transmit herewith the final programme and concept note for the hearing.

As previously conveyed, the hearing will be webcast live and on demand on United Nations Web TV. I look forward to your active participation in the hearing.

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

Volkan BOZKIR

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

**Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing as part of the preparatory process towards  
the High-level Plenary Meeting to Review the Global Plan of Action  
to Combat Trafficking in Persons**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

**Tuesday 13 July 2021, 10am – 12pm and 3pm – 5pm (EDT)  
Virtual, United Nations Headquarters, New York**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

In accordance with GA resolutions [74/176](#) of 23 January 2020 and 75/283 of 7 June 2021 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 22-23 November 2021 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 Tuesday 13 July 2021**, pursuant to paragraph 11 of resolution 75/283. Due to ongoing COVID-19 restrictions at United Nations Headquarters, the Multi-stakeholder Hearing will be held **fully virtually, via a remote interpretation platform (Interprefy), as well as via webcast on UN WebTV.**

### **2. OBJECTIVE**

The Multi-stakeholder Hearing will provide 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 one day of interactive panel discussions that will be attended by representatives of Member States, 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 Multi-stakeholder Hearing is intended to inform Member States, while engaged in the intergovernmental negotiations on the outcome document of the High-level Meeting (a Political Declaration), of the practical experience shared by civil society and other stakeholders. The

Hearing will 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 cross-cutting issues relevant for consideration by Member States, including the human rights of survivors of trafficking, gender perspectives, the protection of children, trafficking in persons and technology, and the impact of COVID-19 on trafficking in persons.

### 3. FORMAT

The virtual Multi-stakeholder Hearing will be held over the course of one-day from **10:00 am to 12:00 pm and from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm EDT**. The Hearing will include an opening and a closing segment, and two interactive panel discussions. The themes for the interactive panel discussions are:

1. The Global Plan of Action and enduring trafficking issues and gaps; and
2. The Global Plan of Action and emerging issues.

The moderator will open and close each panel and facilitate the interactive nature of the discussions. The expert panellists in each panel will make an introductory presentation on a particular topic falling within the broad theme of the panel. Panellists will briefly frame the issues to be discussed in their panel session, highlight gaps in policy and implementation, and identify priorities for action, including recommendations for the Political Declaration.

The presentations of the panellists will be followed by interventions from pre-registered speakers from the 'virtual floor', facilitated by the moderator.

### 4. REGISTRATION AND INTERVENTIONS

The two panel discussions will include an interactive component during which participants will have an opportunity to deliver interventions from the 'virtual floor'. The **time limit for interventions from the floor is strictly three minutes.**

**Kindly also note that, in line with the technical requirements of Interprefy meetings, only those who pre-register to intervene in accordance with the below instructions will receive the Interprefy link to connect to the meeting, and to be able to speak during the Multi-stakeholder Hearing. All other stakeholders who will not have a speaking role in the Hearing will be able to follow the event live on UN WebTV.**

- Member States and observers of the General Assembly who wish to register to intervene during the interactive segment of the panel discussions are kindly requested to inscribe by **Friday, 9 July 2021**. For inscribing on the list of speakers,

please contact the General Assembly Affairs Branch (email: [galindo@un.org](mailto:galindo@un.org) with [gaspeakerslist@un.org](mailto:gaspeakerslist@un.org) in copy). The list of speakers will be prepared on a first-come, first-served basis.

- 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, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who wish to attend the Multi-stakeholder Hearing are invited to **register at the following link by Monday 5 July 2021 at 5pm New York time (EDT): [MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING REGISTRATION FORM](#)**. As noted above, if you wish to intervene during the interactive segment of the panel discussions, pre-registration is required - kindly complete question 12 of the Registration Form in order to receive the Interprefy link. The list of speakers will be prepared on a first-come, first-served basis.

Please note that all **interventions will be time-permitting only**. Due to time constraints, **registrations for joint interventions are encouraged**.

In interventions, participants are encouraged to address the guiding questions as contained below, provide examples of good practices and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and to present actions and commitments to inform the 2021 Global Plan of Action appraisal, including intergovernmental negotiations on the Political Declaration.

All stakeholders who are unfamiliar with the Interprefy platform, and who intend to intervene in the Multi-stakeholder Hearing, are **highly encouraged to attend an Interprefy training session to be held prior to the event**. Further details will be communicated to registered attendees in due course.

## 5. ADDITIONAL WAYS OF ENGAGING IN THE MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING

As well as intervening in the Multi-stakeholder Hearing, there are alternative/additional ways to engage in the process:

1. Participants are encouraged to **pre-submit questions for panellists through the [MULTI-STAKEHOLDER HEARING REGISTRATION FORM](#)**. The moderators will draw from the pre-submitted questions in proposing questions to the panellists.
2. All participants intervening in the Hearing are required to **submit written statements to [estatements@un.org](mailto:estatements@un.org)** prior to the beginning of the Multi-stakeholder Hearing. Please also send a separate email to [unodc-ny@un.org](mailto:unodc-ny@un.org) if you would like your statement, or any other contributions to the Multi-stakeholder Hearing, to be published online.
3. Participants are also encouraged to share ideas and suggestions during the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing using the hashtag **#endhumantrafficking**.

## 6. GUIDING QUESTIONS

The following questions are intended to guide discussions during the Multi-stakeholder Hearing.

1. What are the roles of civil society, academia and the private sector in supporting the protection and empowerment of trafficked persons and those vulnerable to being trafficked?
2. In what ways can global responsibility for responding to trafficking in persons be shared equitably?
3. How can we improve coordination between Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector in preventing and combating trafficking in persons?
4. How should understanding the root causes of trafficking in persons inform coordinated efforts to respond?
5. How can we provide greater international protection and support for survivors of trafficking in persons?
6. How can the third appraisal of the Global Plan of Action contribute to increasing knowledge of trafficking in persons in general and, more specifically, of the issues that might be prioritized in the 2021 Political Declaration?
7. How can the third appraisal of the Global Plan of Action assist with taking stock of progress made by States in combating trafficking in persons since the last appraisal in 2017? What elements or practicable actions are still required to realize the Global Plan of Action?
8. How can the 2021 Political Declaration reflect, influence and support consistent and coherent actions by all stakeholders including States, international and regional organizations, civil society, academia and the private sector in preventing and combating trafficking in persons?

## **7. OUTCOME**

The outcome of the Multi-stakeholder Hearing will be a President's summary, which will be circulated to Member States and other stakeholders.

**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**

Virtual, New York, Tuesday 13 July 2021, 10:00 – 12:00 and 15:00 – 17:00 (EDT)

**Programme**

TIME	MORNING MEETING
10.00 – 10:25	<p><b>High-Level Opening of the Informal Interactive Multi-stakeholder Hearing</b></p> <p><b>Moderated by a Vice-President of the General Assembly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Volkan Bozkir</b>, President of the 75<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. Enrique A. Manalo</b>, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations, New York</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Mr. José Alfonso Blanco Conde</b>, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, New York</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ghada Waly</b>, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime</li> <li>• <b>Representative</b>, UN High Commissioner for Refugees (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Itohan Okundaye</b>, Survivor of trafficking for sexual exploitation, Nigeria</li> </ul>
10.25-12:00	<p><b>Panel 1: The Global Plan of Action and enduring trafficking issues and gaps</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Mr. Yitna Getachew</b>, Head, Migrant Protection and Assistance Division, International Organization for Migration (IOM)</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Marijana Savic</b>, Founder and Director of ATINA, NGO from Serbia <i>(speaking on trafficking of women and children for the purposes of sexual exploitation)</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Carolina Rudnick Vizcarra</b>, Founder and Director of Libera Foundation, NGO from Chile <i>(speaking on trafficking for the purposes of forced labour)</i></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Habiba Osman</b>, Executive Secretary of the Malawi Human Rights Commission <i>(speaking on ending the culture of impunity of traffickers)</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Marika McAdam</b>, International Legal and Policy Advisor specialized in counter-human trafficking and migrant smuggling (<i>speaking on building the evidence base on trafficking in persons</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Pre-registered interventions and Q&amp;A from the floor</u></b></p> <p>The time limit for each intervention from the floor is 3 minutes.</p>
<b>AFTERNOON MEETING</b>	
15:00 – 16:50	<p><b>Panel 2: The Global Plan of Action and emerging issues</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Ms. Delphine Schantz</b>, Representative, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) New York Liaison Office</p> <p><i>Panellists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Prof. Siobhán Mullally</b>, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons (<i>speaking on non-punishment of victims of trafficking</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Francis Bermido</b>, President, People’s Recovery and Development Assistance (PREDA), NGO from the Philippines (<i>speaking on trafficking in persons in the context of COVID-19</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sebastian Arevalo</b>, Director, Pasos Libres, NGO from Colombia (<i>speaking on the misuse of information and communication technologies to facilitate trafficking</i>)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Debra Budiani</b>, Chief Executive Director and founder, Coalition for Organ-Failure Solutions (COFS) (<i>speaking on trafficking in persons for the purposes of organ removal</i>)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Pre-registered interventions and Q&amp;A from the floor</u></b></p> <p>The time limit for each intervention from the floor is 3 minutes.</p>
16:50 – 17:00	<p><b>Closing Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Farrukh Khan</b>, Chef de Cabinet, Office of the President of the General Assembly</li> <li>• <b>Dame Julie Okah-Donli</b>, Board Chair, UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking</li> </ul>