



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

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Working Group on Trafficking in Persons

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Draft Report

Addendum

III. Organization of the meeting

B. Statements (*continued*)

1. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, European Union, Finland, Germany, India, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.
2. Iran (Islamic Republic of), a State that is not party or signatory to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, also made a statement.

V. Summary of deliberations

3. At its 3rd and 4th meetings, on 7 September 2017, the Working Group considered agenda item 3, entitled “Preparation of the questionnaire to review the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol”. Under the agenda item, the Chair invited States to provide comments of a general nature related to the draft questionnaire, including views on what the focus and objective of the questionnaire should be.
4. Many speakers noted that determining the final objective, content and structure of the questionnaire would be dependent on decisions of the Conference of the Parties relating to a review mechanism for the Convention and its Protocols. It was further noted that consultations of the Conference in this regard were ongoing and would continue in the lead-up to the ninth session of the Conference, namely in the framework of the open-ended intergovernmental meeting for the purpose of defining the specific procedures and rules for the functioning of the review mechanism for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols, established in accordance with Conference resolution 8/2.
5. Several speakers said that the draft questionnaire should not go beyond the scope of the provisions of the Protocol. In this respect, several views were expressed as to whether the wording of the questions should adhere strictly to the text of the Protocol



to avoid ambiguity or whether open-ended and flexible questions were more useful. Speakers also presented views on whether the questionnaire should focus on requesting information about national implementation of the Protocol or whether the questionnaire should focus more on the practical aspects of its implementation.

6. Most speakers emphasized that the questionnaire should not cause undue burden on expert practitioners who would be in charge of replying to the questionnaires, that duplication of efforts should be avoided and that costs should be kept in mind. Many speakers supported the idea that, in replying to the questionnaire, States should provide information and/or electronic links to information they had provided in the context of reporting on the implementation of other regional or international legal instruments. Questions were also put forward on how the data collected through the questionnaires would be used and stored, as well as how often States would need to respond to the questionnaires; it was also suggested that other forms of provision of data from States, other than through a questionnaire, could be considered.

7. Many speakers made reference to the existing questionnaires from the 2004 and 2005 review cycles and suggested that those questionnaires could form the basis of the new questionnaires, in the sense that they could be restructured, complemented or modified for use under a review mechanism, or that they could be used in their current form.

8. Other views presented included the suggestion that the questionnaire should enquire whether the responding State party is a country of origin, transit and/or destination of human trafficking; that the questionnaire should assist in identifying technical assistance needs and facilitate the sharing of information, lessons learned and best practices among States; and that the outcome of the data gathering efforts could identify recommendations for improving and/or interpreting the Protocol.
