



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

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Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants

Vienna, 8 and 9 September 2020

Annotated provisional agenda

Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Opening of the meeting;
 - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on trends in organized criminal groups and on routes for the smuggling of migrants, as well as good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises to detect, investigate and prosecute such cases.
3. Successful strategies concerning the use of technology, including information and communications technology, to prevent and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to mount a robust response to the increasing use of cyberspace by criminal groups.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

Annotations

1. Organizational matters

(a) Opening of the meeting

The seventh meeting of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants will be opened on Tuesday, 8 September 2020, at 10 a.m.

(b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants would be a constant element of the Conference, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the Working Group to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed, and to hold its meetings consecutively with



other working groups of the Conference, in order to ensure the effective use of resources.

On 30 August 2019, the extended Bureau of the Conference of the Parties agreed, using the silence procedure, on the meeting plan for 2020, pursuant to which the seventh meeting of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants is scheduled to be held in Vienna on 8 and 9 September 2020. Moreover, on 1 May 2020, the extended Bureau agreed, using the silence procedure, on the substantive topics of the Working Group for that meeting.

The proposed organization of work (see annex) was prepared in accordance with Conference resolution 7/1 in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the time frame and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of four plenary meetings over two days, with interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

2. Impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on trends in organized criminal groups and on routes for the smuggling of migrants, as well as good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises to detect, investigate and prosecute such cases

Under agenda item 2, the Working Group may wish to discuss the impact of natural disasters, conflict and various crises, including the recent coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, on routes for the smuggling of migrants and the overall activities of organized criminal groups. Delegates may then wish to share good practices in support of enhanced law enforcement cooperation in preventing and responding to the smuggling of migrants under these exceptional circumstances.

The Working Group may also wish to examine how crime prevention and criminal justice systems have in the past tailored their responses to organized crime activities during or in the immediate aftermath of natural disasters, conflicts and crises of various origins. Moreover, the Working Group may wish to propose actions to support balanced approaches between law enforcement and public health responses under those circumstances.

For its consideration of agenda item 2, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on the impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on trends in organized criminal groups and on routes for the smuggling of migrants, as well as good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises to detect, investigate and prosecute such cases (CTOC/COP/WG.7/2020/2)

3. Successful strategies concerning the use of technology, including information and communications technology, to prevent and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to mount a robust response to the increasing use of cyberspace by criminal groups

Under agenda item 3, the Working Group may wish to examine the current nexus between technology, including information technology, and the smuggling of migrants by discussing how to adapt and use modern applications to detect, investigate, prosecute and counter this crime, including in cyberspace. Experts may also wish to share promising practices for addressing current impediments and challenges in the use of technology, with due consideration to privacy, safeguards and data protection policies.

The Working Group may wish to discuss, in particular, the use of technology applied to law enforcement, investigative and prosecutorial strategies, such as means for

collecting evidence, technological fraud detection, technology-based witness testimony and means for preventing and disrupting the smuggling of migrants, including satellite imagery and geospatial mapping.

For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

Documentation

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on successful strategies concerning the use of technology, including information and communications technology, to prevent and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to mount a robust response to the increasing use of cyberspace by criminal groups (CTOC/COP/WG.7/2020/3)

4. Other matters

As no issues to be raised under agenda item 4 have come to the attention of the Secretariat, no documentation is currently foreseen under this item.

5. Adoption of the report

The Working Group is expected to adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Tuesday, 8 September		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on trends in organized criminal groups and on routes for the smuggling of migrants, as well as good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises to detect, investigate and prosecute such cases
3–6 p.m.	2	Impact of natural disasters, conflicts and crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on trends in organized criminal groups and on routes for the smuggling of migrants, as well as good practices to support effective law enforcement cooperation during such crises to detect, investigate and prosecute such cases (<i>continued</i>)
	3	Successful strategies concerning the use of technology, including information and communications technology, to prevent and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to mount a robust response to the increasing use of cyberspace by criminal groups
Wednesday, 9 September		
10 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	Successful strategies concerning the use of technology, including information and communications technology, to prevent and investigate the smuggling of migrants and to mount a robust response to the increasing use of cyberspace by criminal groups (<i>continued</i>)
3–6 p.m.	4	Other matters
	5	Adoption of the report