



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

II. Recommendations (*continued*)

A. General recommendations

Recommendation 35

Security officers and those in peacekeeping roles should receive training and be sensitized on trafficking in persons.

C. Recommendations on diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing human trafficking

Recommendation 36

Member States should create a mechanism for diplomatic households' employees according to which they must appear in person, if possible in the framework of a face-to-face interview, before the host State authorities, where they are informed of their rights and obligations, and are told who to contact in case of any difficulties.

Recommendation 37

Member States should establish oversight mechanisms, such as in-person registration programmes, within their foreign ministries to prevent trafficking or other abuse of domestic workers employed by foreign mission personnel and to inform the workers of how to seek help if needed.

Recommendation 38

Member States should support domestic employees to be able to speak one of the host State official languages, or alternatively a language broadly understood in the host State, for them to be able to communicate with authorities at any time and facilitate their social integration.

Recommendation 39

Member States should ensure that private household employees' salaries are paid into a bank account opened in their sole name.



Recommendation 40

Member States should strengthen assistance provided to trafficking victims through cooperation between diplomatic and consular missions of different countries.

Recommendation 41

Member States should ensure that all relevant governmental and non-governmental entities cooperate with the diplomatic and consular missions accredited in their country, to provide an optimal service of assistance and protection to victims, facilitate processes, adapt to national realities and overcome any legal or administrative obstacle.

Recommendation 42

Member States should explore the possibility of signing bilateral cooperation agreements, to ensure fluid and timely communication.

Recommendation 43

Member States should provide repeated training to diplomatic and consular agents in relation to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 44

Member States should hold specific workshops, seminars or courses at the national, regional and international level on the role of diplomatic and consular personnel in responding to trafficking in persons.

Recommendation 45

Member States are encouraged to provide visa applicants with information, preferably in their native language, about the forms of human trafficking, their rights and available assistance resources.

Recommendation 46

Member States should, whenever possible, incorporate the input of survivors and/or civil society organizations in developing training materials for diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers on indicators of human trafficking and to ensure a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach.

Recommendation 47

Member States should train their personnel before serving abroad on human trafficking with a focus on domestic servitude issues to help ensure proper treatment of domestic workers.

Recommendation 48

Member States must clarify which role their diplomatic and consular personnel shall seek to fill in countries of destination, transit or origin.

Recommendation 49

Member States should build the capacities of diplomatic and consular staff to identify victims, taking into consideration international human rights and refugee law.

Recommendation 50

Member States who are parties to the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations should implement mandatory consular notification to protect foreign nationals' rights to due process.

III. Summary of deliberations (*continued*)

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 10 September 2019, the Working Group resumed panel presentations under agenda item 3, entitled “Diplomatic and consular officials or liaison officers in diplomatic and consular missions and their roles in addressing human trafficking”.
2. Ms. Qingtian Meng presented efforts by the Ministry of Public Security to set up hotline mechanisms collaborating with multiple States, creating a strong cooperation network. The Ministry of Public Security has also deployed 69 police liaison officers in 41 countries, contributing to building bridges between States in fighting human trafficking. Joint operations to fight transnational organized crime have also been held through cooperation agreements with Myanmar, the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and Cambodia, with joint operations between six countries being conducted during which liaison officers served as key links in intelligence sharing and repatriation efforts. As a result, 634 cases were uncovered, and 153 foreign nationals rescued. Police and border liaison officers supported the rescue of victims and information-sharing between China and bordering countries. Ms. Qingtian Meng explained how, since 2014, border liaison officers have repatriated 1,193 people. She went on to describe several individual cases to illustrate the successes of these joint operations. A working group for joint investigation was set up at the Chinese Embassy in Viet Nam to investigate specific cases. She concluded by reiterating that the liaison officers have proved to be an efficient bridge to fight trafficking in persons and a platform for exchange of information.
3. In the discussion under agenda item 3 that followed, many speakers outlined the need to protect safety and human rights of overseas citizens, particularly vulnerable nationals abroad. Diplomatic and consular personnel can play an essential role in detecting and fighting trafficking in persons in that regard. A large number of speakers stressed the importance of training consular and diplomatic personnel on all forms of trafficking, the context in which this occurs, as well as warning signs, indicators and victim assistance measures. Some speakers highlighted the need for a victim-centred and human rights-based approach to such training. Training can allow diplomatic and consular officials to react swiftly when a trafficking case involving a citizen is detected abroad. Some speakers mentioned that diplomats receive online training as well as booklets before the start of their assignment.
4. Some speakers mentioned the particular vulnerability of domestic workers in diplomatic households, who are often isolated. Further, privileges and immunities of diplomatic employers can increase the vulnerability of such workers to trafficking in persons. In that regard, several speakers described measures taken to increase the protection afforded to domestic workers in diplomatic households, such as in-person interviews in consulates before the start of the assignment during which their rights are explained. Such interviews can be repeated once a year to assess the situation, for example in the context of a visa renewal procedure.
5. Several speakers mentioned the importance of hotlines and other lines of communication for domestic workers in diplomatic households. In addition, the distribution of pamphlets and information brochures in many languages in consulates as well as awareness-raising movies, television commercials and cartoons were described by some speakers as good practices.
6. Some speakers described legislative measures adopted to strengthen the work conditions of the domestic workers, such as a minimum salary and regulated work hours. Some speakers also highlighted as a good practice that domestic workers should receive their salary directly to a bank account open under their name.
7. Two speakers mentioned the establishment of dedicated offices as a best practice to mediate in cases of alleged abuses and issues.
8. A speaker mentioned that trafficking may occur in the context of international surrogacy, recruitment of foreign workers, volunteer programmes and student

exchange programmes, and added that trainings for consular and diplomatic personnel should also cover these fields.

9. Some speakers mentioned that cooperation with international organizations, such as UNODC, ILO, UNICEF and IOM is vital and can help countries benefit from accumulated global knowledge.

10. The OSCE's "*Handbook on how to prevent human trafficking for domestic servitude in diplomatic households and protect private domestic workers*" (2014), as well as the *Handbook for diplomatic and consular personnel on how to assist and protect victims of human trafficking (2011)*, developed by the Council of Baltic Sea States, were mentioned as examples of tools to be used for guidance.

IV. Organization of the meeting

B. Statements (*continued*)

11. Under agenda item 3, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Gambia, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, Nigeria, Norway, Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

12. The observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran also made a statement.

13. Under agenda item 4, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Algeria, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, Honduras, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Sudan, Thailand [...].
