



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

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## Working Group on Trafficking in Persons

Vienna, 12–13 October 2021

### Draft Report

#### Addendum

## II. Recommendations (*continued*)

### A. Recommendations on successful strategies for addressing the use of technology to facilitate trafficking in persons and to prevent and investigate trafficking in persons.

1. The Working Group recommended that the Conference of the Parties consider the following recommendations for adoption:

#### *Recommendation 1*

States parties should ensure that national legal frameworks provide for the effective investigation and prosecution of technology-facilitated trafficking in persons, including by keeping pace with technological developments and allowing for the effective use and sharing of electronic evidence.

#### *Recommendation 2*

States parties should seek to enhance operational responses to technology-facilitated trafficking in persons, especially of children, including by:

- (a) Strengthening the expertise and capacity of law enforcement agencies to use new technological tools to conduct efficient investigations and operations in the cyberspace, including on the dark web;
- (b) Establishing or developing specialized law enforcement functions on cyber-enabled crime, including related trafficking in persons, and/or enhancing cooperation between existing cyber and anti-trafficking functions;
- (c) Undertaking financial investigations of online trafficking cases to confiscate financial gains and assets, with a view to potentially utilizing these to support victims of trafficking;
- (d) Providing for appropriate trauma-informed, gender- and age-sensitive protection and assistance schemes for victims of trafficking in persons.



*Recommendation 3*

States parties should ensure that any use of technology by law enforcement authorities is consistent with international human rights standards and is necessary, proportionate, legal, accountable and fair.

*Recommendation 4*

States parties should establish high standards of cybersecurity, privacy-by-design and safety-by-design in the digital services and products that children may use, as well as seek cooperation with Internet service providers to lower the risk of recruitment of children through the Internet.

*Recommendation 5*

States parties should enhance international and regional cooperation to develop policies, share intelligence and conduct cross-border investigations to prevent and counter trafficking in persons enabled by information and communications technology.

*Recommendation 6*

States parties should encourage, facilitate and expand, where relevant and appropriate, effective partnerships and coalitions between relevant stakeholders from the public sector, civil society and the private sector, especially technology companies, to harness innovation, strengthen cooperation, to enhance the use of technology against trafficking in persons.

*Recommendation 7*

States parties should encourage technology companies to support national responses by implementing systematic scanning practices to better detect trafficking in persons activities online, including child trafficking, through the use of web crawlers and data scanning tools, in compliance with the right to privacy and human rights, while making sure that material stemming from online sexual exploitation is removed from online platforms to avoid revictimization and continuing exploitation.

*Recommendation 8*

With regard to research, States parties should consider supporting UNODC's efforts to undertake data collection and analysis, capacity-building as well as dissemination of promising practices related to the use of modern technologies to address trafficking in persons.

## **IV. Organization of the meeting (*continued*)**

### **B. Statements**

2. Under agenda item 2, statements were made by representatives of the following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol: Argentina, Bahrain, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Honduras, Israel, Mexico and Poland.
3. The observers for Pakistan and the Holy See also made respective statements.
4. The Working Group also heard a statement by the observer for the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

**D. Attendance**

5. The following parties to the Trafficking in Persons Protocol were represented at the meeting, including those connected remotely due to the specific format of the meeting in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: Philippines.

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