



Tool 2.10 Interregional action plans and strategies

Overview

Trafficking in persons that takes place between regions requires an interregional response. This tool refers to some promising practice in that regard.

Promising practice

Economic Community of West African States and Economic Community of Central African States

In July 2006, the member States of both the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) adopted a bi-regional plan of action for the period 2006-2008. This bi-regional plan of action reaffirms the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) and extends efforts to combat trafficking into the Central African region. The ECOWAS Initial Plan outlined the most urgent actions against trafficking in persons to be taken by ECOWAS member States, with a focus on criminal justice responses. The new joint plan of action of ECOWAS and ECCAS member States is a response to the trafficking flows between the two subregions and is aimed at the establishment of joint objectives. The plan of action was adopted together with a declaration and a multilateral cooperation agreement.

The joint plan of action emphasizes the need for to protection of women and children against trafficking in West and Central Africa, focusing on the legal framework and on policy development. In this respect, it underlines that individual member States should ensure the ratification and efficient domestic implementation of international instruments.

The plan of action articulates seven clear strategies addressing: legal framework and policy development; victim assistance and protection; prevention and awareness-raising; collection and analysis of information; training and specialized capacity-building; travel and identity documents; monitoring and evaluation of implementation.



The ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) is available at:

www.iss.co.za/AF/RegOrg/unity_to_union/pdfs/ecowas/10POAHuTraf.pdf



The Multilateral Cooperation Agreement to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in West and Central Africa is available at:

www.ceeac-eccas.org/img/pdf/Multilateral_Agreement_Trafficking-1184251953.doc



More information about ECOWAS is available at:
www.ecowas.int



More information about ECCAS is available at:
www.ceeac-eccas.org



The UNODC training manual on the implementation of the ECOWAS Initial Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons (2002-2003) is available at:
www.unodc.org/pdf/ecowas_training_manual_2006.pdf

***Ouagadougou Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings,
Especially Women and Children
(European Union and African States)***

The first Ministerial Conference on Migration and Development between the European Union and the entire African continent was held in Tripoli in November 2006. It was attended by ministers for foreign affairs, migration and development from both continents. The Ouagadougou Action Plan signed at that conference is concerned with:

- Prevention and awareness-raising
- Victim protection and assistance
- Legislative framework, policy development and law enforcement
- Cooperation and coordination



The Ouagadougou Action Plan is available at:
www.ec.europa.eu/justice_home/doc_centre/immigration/docs/OUAGADOUGOU.pdf

***Action Plan to Combat against Trafficking in Persons,
Especially Women and Children******(Asia-Europe Meeting)***

The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) is an informal dialogue process involving the member States of ASEAN and the European Union. At the third Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs, held in Beijing in May 2001, a joint plan of action against trafficking in women and children was welcomed. The plan focuses on prevention, protection and law enforcement, as well as on rehabilitation, return and reintegration of victims. This commitment has been restated at subsequent Asia-Europe Meetings of ministers.



More information about the Asia-Europe Meeting can be found at:
http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/asem/intro/index.htm