

Reference: CU 2009/180(A)

The Secretary-General of the United Nations presents his compliments to the [Permanent Representative of (..) to the United Nations (Vienna)] and has the honour to draw the attention of the Government to decision 4/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, entitled “Trafficking in Human Beings”.

In its decision 4/4, the Conference decided to establish an open-ended interim working group to advise and assist the Conference in the implementation of its mandate with regard to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

It also decided that the working group should perform the following functions:

- (i) Facilitate implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol through the exchange of experience and practices between experts and practitioners in this area, including by contributing to the identification of weaknesses, gaps and challenges;
- (ii) Make recommendations to the Conference on how States parties can better implement the provisions of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iii) Assist the Conference in providing guidance to its secretariat on its activities relating to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol;
- (iv) Make recommendations to the Conference on how it can better coordinate with the various international bodies combating trafficking in persons with respect to implementing, supporting and promoting the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

The Conference further decided that the working group should meet during the fifth session of the Conference and should hold at least one intersessional meeting before that session. A first intersessional meeting of the working group was held in Vienna, Austria, on 14 and 15 April 2009.

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At its first meeting, the Working Group agreed that, subject to availability of resources and interest by States, it could be useful to hold another intersessional meeting of the Working Group prior to the fifth session of the Conference of the Parties.

The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties confirmed the advisability of convening a second intersessional meeting of the Working Group and decided that such meeting should focus on a few specific issues to allow a fruitful exchange of views and experiences among experts and practitioners in the area of combating trafficking in persons. The Bureau conducted consultations with Member States on their areas of interest related to the implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol and, on that basis, set up the agenda for the second meeting of the Working Group.

The Government is cordially invited to participate in the second meeting of the open-ended interim Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, which will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 27 to 29 January 2010.

The provisional agenda of the meeting is the result of consultation with Member States on their areas of interest related to the implementation of the Trafficking Protocol. It focuses on a limited number of specific issues to allow a fruitful exchange of views and experiences among experts and practitioners in the area of combating trafficking in persons. Those issues are:

- Analysis of key concepts of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol (i.a. art 14.2 of the Protocol)
- Good practices and tools in discouraging the demand for exploitative service
- Non-punishment and non-prosecution of victims of trafficking: administrative/judicial approaches to offences committed in the process of trafficking
- Good practices and tools for case management, including front-line law enforcement authorities, in responding to trafficking in persons.

Documentation for the meeting will be electronically available in all the official United Nations languages at the website of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and can be accessed through the following address:

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-trafficking-jan-2010.html>

It would be appreciated if the information on the composition of the Government's delegation, including names(s), title(s), e-mail address(es) and contact details, could be sent directly to the Secretariat of the Conference of the Parties, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, P.O. Box 500, 1400 Vienna, Austria, fax: +43-1 26060 75752 or to email: untoc.cop@unodc.org by **15 January 2010 at the latest**.

Providing the individual e-mail address will allow participants to receive a link to upload a photograph in order to shorten the time needed to issue badges upon arrival at the Vienna International Centre, Security Gate 1. Providing the e-mail address will also allow the secretariat, if necessary, to send important information and updates regarding the meeting.