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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2021

[on the report of the Third Committee ([A/76/463](#), para. 26)]

76/186. Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes an offence and a serious threat to human dignity and physical integrity, human rights and sustainable development,

Reiterating its concern that, despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional and national levels, trafficking in persons remains one of the grave challenges facing the international community, which also impairs the enjoyment of human rights and needs a more concerted collective and comprehensive international response,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and assist victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Recognizing that the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic is one of the greatest global challenges in the history of the United Nations, and noting with deep concern its impact on health and the loss of life, mental health and well-being, as well as the negative impact on global humanitarian needs, the enjoyment of human rights and across all spheres of society, including on livelihoods, food security and nutrition, education, the exacerbation of poverty and hunger, disruption to economies, trade, societies, environments, and the exacerbation of economic and social inequalities within and among countries, which exacerbate existing vulnerabilities to trafficking and create new challenges to combating the crime of trafficking in persons,

Noting that reports have highlighted a sharp increase in unemployment rates brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic that is likely to worsen the circumstances for those most at risk of falling victim to trafficking in persons, in particular in countries experiencing the fastest and most persistent drops in employment,



Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,¹ and recalling also the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals on eliminating all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation,² on taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and trafficking in persons and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms,³ and on ending abuse and exploitation of, trafficking in and all forms of violence against and torture of children,⁴

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,⁵ as well as its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,⁶ which provided the definition of the crime of trafficking in persons, welcoming the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of both instruments, and further acknowledging the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography⁷ and the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade, and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery,⁸

Taking note of the adoption of the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), of the International Labour Organization, which recognizes that trafficking in persons for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour is the subject of growing international concern,

Recalling the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/293](#) of 30 July 2010, and underlining the importance of its full implementation,

Reaffirming that the Global Plan of Action was developed:

- (a) To promote universal ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, as well as other relevant international instruments that address trafficking in persons, and to reinforce the implementation of existing instruments against trafficking in persons,
- (b) To help Member States to reinforce their political commitments and legal obligations to prevent and combat trafficking in persons,
- (c) To promote comprehensive, coordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional and international levels to counter trafficking in persons,
- (d) To promote a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approach in addressing all factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons and strengthening the criminal justice response, which are necessary to prevent trafficking in persons, protect its victims and prosecute its perpetrators,
- (e) To raise awareness within the United Nations system and also among States and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, civil society and the international and national mass media, and the public at large,
- (f) To foster cooperation and coordination among all relevant stakeholders, including Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and

¹ Resolution [70/1](#).

² Target 5.2.

³ Target 8.7.

⁴ Target 16.2.

⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.

⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 266, No. 3822.

the private sector, and within various entities of the United Nations system, taking into account existing best practices and lessons learned,

Recalling its resolutions 61/180 of 20 December 2006, 64/178 of 18 December 2009, 67/190 of 20 December 2012, 68/192 of 18 December 2013, 70/179 of 17 December 2015, 72/195 of 19 December 2017 and 74/176 of 18 December 2019 on improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and its other relevant resolutions on trafficking in persons,⁹

Recalling also its resolutions 71/322 of 8 September 2017, 73/189 of 17 December 2018 and 75/195 of 16 December 2020, entitled “Strengthening and promoting effective measures and international cooperation on organ donation and transplantation to prevent and combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal and trafficking in human organs”,

Recalling further Economic and Social Council resolutions 2017/18 of 6 July 2017 and 2021/25 of 22 July 2021 on the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and previous Council resolutions on trafficking in persons,

Recalling Human Rights Council resolution 44/4 of 16 July 2020, entitled “Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: strengthening human rights through enhanced protection, support and empowerment of victims of trafficking, especially women and children”,¹⁰ and other relevant resolutions of the Council on trafficking in persons,

Recalling also Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 27/2 of 18 May 2018, entitled “Preventing and combating trafficking in persons facilitated by the criminal misuse of information and communications technologies”,¹¹ and the other relevant resolutions of the Commission on trafficking in persons,

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 75/283 of 7 June 2021, entitled “Modalities, format and organization of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons”, providing for the organization of the high-level meeting and the adoption of a political declaration by the Assembly,

Taking note of the reference to preventing, countering and combating trafficking in persons and to the vulnerabilities of children in the context of addressing trafficking in persons in the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law: Towards the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan, from 7 to 12 March 2021,¹²

Recalling the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 19 September 2016,¹³ in which States declared that they would, with full respect for their obligations under international law, vigorously combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling with a view to their elimination, including through targeted measures to identify victims of trafficking in persons or those at risk of trafficking,

⁹ Resolutions 55/67, 58/137, 59/166, 61/144, 63/156 and 63/194.

¹⁰ See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventy-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53 (A/75/53)*, chap. V, sect. A.

¹¹ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2018, Supplement No. 10 (E/2018/30)*, chap. I, sect. C.

¹² Resolution 76/181, annex.

¹³ Resolution 71/1.

provide support for the victims of trafficking in persons and work to prevent trafficking in persons among those affected by displacement,

Recognizing the important role of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in fostering coordination and cooperation in the global fight against trafficking in persons, within the existing mandates of its members and partners,¹⁴

Recognizing also that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, within its mandate, contributes to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, taking note with appreciation of the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as coordinator of the Coordination Group, as well as the activities of the members of the Coordination Group acting on a rotational basis as Chair of the working group of the Coordination Group, and encouraging the more robust participation of all members of the Coordination Group,

Taking note with appreciation of the work of the 2019 and 2020 Co-Chairs of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including the convening of the first consultative briefing outside of the United Nations system, at the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference, and of the second meeting of the Coordination Group at the level of principals of the relevant United Nations agencies and organizations, including those agencies that are not active members of the Coordination Group, held in virtual format on 15 December 2020, and taking note with appreciation of the work of the 2021 Co-Chairs of the Coordination Group, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, including the provision of a joint submission to support the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the convening of the high-level event on trafficking in persons and sustainable procurement in virtual format on 27 September 2021,

Taking note with appreciation also of the thematic focus of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on trafficking in children, trafficking in persons and technology, the non-punishment of trafficking victims and on measures to prevent trafficking in persons in supply chains, including in public procurement and in the procurement of goods and services by the United Nations, as well as on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficking in persons and the necessity of a victim-centred approach, and taking note of the Coordination Group plan of action, endorsed at the principal-level meeting on 15 December 2020,

¹⁴ The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Labour Organization, the International Organization for Migration, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the Department of Peace Operations of the Secretariat, the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs of the Secretariat, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, as well as the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Council of Europe, the Organization of American States and the Council of the Baltic Sea States as partners of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group.

Recalling that the Inter-Agency Coordination Group was established to foster cooperation among relevant United Nations agencies and other international organizations involved in combating trafficking in persons in countries around the world using, to the extent possible, mechanisms already in place at the regional and national levels, and to share information, experiences and good practices relating to the activities of the partner agencies to counter trafficking with Governments, international and regional organizations and other relevant bodies,

Emphasizing the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, by making use of existing capacity-building tools, lessons learned from Member States and expertise available in other international organizations,

Recognizing the need to continue to foster a global partnership against trafficking in persons among all stakeholders and the need to continue to work towards an enhanced comprehensive and coordinated approach to prevent and combat trafficking and to protect and assist victims of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing also the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on good practices, of Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Taking note with appreciation of the different initiatives of Member States, promoted in the United Nations to contribute to the global fight against trafficking in persons,¹⁵

Recalling that trafficking in persons is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, with trafficking in persons disproportionately affecting women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation,

Stressing the need to take appropriate measures to ensure access to justice and protections for victims in criminal justice processes, including measures to ensure that identified victims of trafficking in persons are not penalized for having been trafficked and that they do not suffer from victimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, communities and families,

Recognizing that broad international cooperation between Member States and relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations is essential for effectively countering the threat of trafficking in persons and other contemporary forms of slavery,

Recognizing also that victims of trafficking are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of gender, age, disability, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as national or social origin, and that these forms of discrimination may themselves fuel trafficking in persons, and that women and children without nationality or without birth registration are particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons,

¹⁵ Such as, *inter alia*, Alliance 8.7; Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking; the call to action to end forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking; the principles to guide government action to combat human trafficking in global supply chains; and the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime.

Recognizing further the potential of the Internet and other information and communications technologies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons and to assist victims, stressing the need for increased law enforcement cooperation in this regard to address the new challenges generated by the rapid development of the Internet and other information and communications technologies, expressing concern that perpetrators of trafficking in persons have misused the Internet and other information and communications technologies to facilitate trafficking in persons, including in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, for the purpose of recruitment and exploitation, especially of women and children, and controlling victims,

Stressing the need to promote and protect the rights of victims of trafficking in persons and to reintegrate victims into the community, including by taking into account, where appropriate, the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking¹⁶ and the commentary thereon developed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the Guidelines on the Protection of Child Victims of Trafficking developed by the United Nations Children's Fund,

Welcoming the efforts of Member States, United Nations agencies, international organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and financial institutions to address the problem of trafficking in persons, including women and children as the most vulnerable group, and emphasizing the urgent need for them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation to build the evidence base, including by sharing their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Affirming that capacity-building is a very important component in combating trafficking in persons, and in this regard stressing the need to intensify international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons, as well as technical assistance for countries aimed at strengthening their ability to prevent all forms of trafficking, including supporting their development programmes,

Taking note of the Khartoum process and its Declaration adopted in Khartoum on 16 October 2014 during the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, coordinated by the African Union, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, which aimed to strengthen national, regional and international cooperation and build capacities in the African countries to combat trafficking in persons and migrant smuggling,

Taking note also of the Second Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015–2018, adopted by States members of the Organization of American States at the fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on 4 and 5 December 2014 in Brasilia, and extended until 2022 by States members at the sixth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held in virtual format on 13 and 14 May 2021 in Washington, D.C.,

Recognizing that the Global Plan of Action and the establishment of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, established in compliance with the Global Plan of Action, aim at raising awareness of the situation of victims of trafficking in persons and at providing them with humanitarian, legal and financial aid through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the importance of humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, including through governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the United Nations voluntary trust fund

¹⁶ E/2002/68/Add.1.

for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, managed by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery, managed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the International Organization for Migration Global Assistance Fund,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,¹⁷

Taking note also of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,¹⁸ as well as the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences,¹⁹ and of the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material,²⁰

Recognizing that, in accordance with the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention is established to improve the capacity of States parties to combat transnational organized crime and to promote and review the implementation of the Convention, including the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and in this regard taking note of resolution 10/1 of 16 October 2020, entitled “Launch of the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto” and resolution 10/3, also of 16 October 2020, entitled “Effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime”, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its tenth session, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020,²¹

Recalling the request made to the Secretary-General by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/293 to include, within existing reporting obligations to the Assembly under the item on crime prevention and criminal justice, a section on the implementation by the United Nations system of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

1. *Urges Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and also urges States parties to those instruments to fully and effectively implement their obligations;*

2. *Urges Member States and other stakeholders mentioned in the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,²² and invites the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, within their respective mandates, to continue to contribute to the full and effective*

¹⁷ A/76/120.

¹⁸ A/76/263.

¹⁹ A/76/170.

²⁰ A/76/144.

²¹ See CTOC/COP/2020/10, sect. I.A.

²² Resolution 64/293.

implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including by means of strengthening cooperation and improving coordination among themselves in achieving that goal;

3. *Calls upon* Governments to closely follow developments in the area of international protection of victims of trafficking in persons in order to protect the human rights of such persons and to ensure compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law;

4. *Recalls* the holding of the high-level meetings of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013, during its seventy-second session, on 27 and 28 September 2017, and during its seventy-sixth session, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which, *inter alia*, reiterated strong political will to step up efforts against trafficking in persons;

5. *Also recalls* its decision, in its resolution [68/192](#), to appraise, from within existing resources, on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decides to convene a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action at its eightieth session, after the general debate, but no later than December 2025;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in close cooperation and coordination with Member States, to take all appropriate measures to arrange the high-level meeting;

7. *Recalls* its decision to designate 30 July as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, to be observed annually, and, while welcoming events held by Member States, United Nations agencies, other international organizations and civil society at the international, regional and national levels to mark the World Day, invites all stakeholders to continue to observe the World Day in order to raise awareness of trafficking in persons and the situation of the victims of this crime and for the promotion and protection of their rights;

8. *Expresses solidarity with and compassion for* victims and survivors of trafficking in persons, and calls for the full respect of their human rights and the provision of appropriate victim-centred care and assistance, where applicable, including interpretation and sign language, where appropriate, to victims of trafficking, and services for their rehabilitation in cooperation with civil society and other relevant partners;

9. *Expresses support* for the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reaffirms its request to the Secretary-General to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and invites Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Office for the purpose of providing assistance to Member States upon request;

10. *Encourages* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside the United Nations system and to invite such organizations and interested Member States to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Coordination Group;

11. *Takes note* of the briefing for Member States by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group at its second and third meetings, held in virtual format on 15 December 2020 and on 15 November 2021, and of the Coordination Group plan

of action, endorsed on 15 December 2020, as well as of the interactive multi-stakeholder hearing of 13 July 2021, which was part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and of the high-level event on trafficking in persons and sustainable procurement held in virtual format on 27 September 2021;

12. *Welcomes* the second and third meetings of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, held in virtual format on 15 December 2020 and on 15 November 2021, which reinforced the vital role of inter-agency partnership in tackling trafficking in persons, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, as coordinator of the Coordination Group, to continue to convene such meetings of the Coordination Group at the level of principals on a regular basis, and in this context takes note of the role of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe as the first regional entity to co-chair the Coordination Group and also takes note of the engagement of the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator with the Coordination Group, and welcomes the Organization of American States and the Council of the Baltic Sea States as the newest regional entities to join the Coordination Group;

13. *Invites* regional organizations, within their mandates, to join and consider co-chairing, along with a United Nations agency, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to strengthen the exchange of expertise and regional experiences and thus enhance international cooperation in combating trafficking in persons and assisting the victims of this crime;

14. *Takes note* of the ongoing process undertaken by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group to conduct studies on emerging trends in the field of trafficking in persons, and to ensure that information-sharing among relevant agencies and between countries is done in accordance with international and national legal frameworks and takes into account privacy and confidentiality;

15. *Invites* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as coordinator of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system to further strengthen their activities related to the implementation of relevant international instruments and the Global Plan of Action to drive greater progress in eliminating trafficking in persons, and invites Member States and other international and bilateral donors to provide voluntary contributions to the Office for these purposes, in accordance with the policies, rules and procedures of the United Nations;

16. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration new methods of recruiting those at risk of being subjected to trafficking in persons, such as the misuse of the Internet by traffickers, in particular for recruiting children, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of trafficking in persons and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

17. *Invites* Member States to address the social, economic, cultural, political and other factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking in persons, such as poverty, unemployment, inequality, humanitarian emergencies, including armed conflicts and natural disasters, sexual violence, gender discrimination and social exclusion and marginalization, as well as a culture of tolerance towards violence against women, youth and children;

18. *Reaffirms* its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism and its strong support for the central role of the United Nations system in the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including in addressing the issue of trafficking in persons in the context of the pandemic;

19. *Calls upon* Member States, international organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, through partnerships, as appropriate, to increase and support prevention efforts in countries of origin, transit and destination by focusing domestically and globally on the demand and supply chains that foster all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of trafficking in persons;

20. *Encourages* Member States to take legislative or other measures to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration by strengthening capacities and international cooperation to investigate, prosecute and penalize trafficking in persons, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, and ending impunity of trafficking networks;

21. *Also encourages* Member States to cooperate on issues concerning trafficking in persons with the Inter-Agency Coordination Group, and in this regard takes note of the *Toolkit for Guidance in Designing and Evaluating Counter-Trafficking Programmes* of the Coordination Group, which might contribute to establishing a common framework for aligning activities and defining and assessing progress, as well as building a voluntary, robust and shared evidence base of effective programmes and practices to combat trafficking in persons;

22. *Further encourages* Member States to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, as well as with other relevant special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material, and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;

23. *Calls upon* Member States to continue their efforts to criminalize trafficking in persons in all its forms, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, especially concerning children and persons with disabilities, and to condemn these practices and to investigate, prosecute and penalize traffickers and intermediaries while providing victim-centred protection and assistance to the victims of trafficking with full respect for their human rights, and invites Member States to continue to support those United Nations agencies and international organizations that are actively involved in victim protection;

24. *Also calls upon* Member States to take measures to support family reunification for victims of trafficking in persons, where safe and appropriate, especially when those are children, taking into consideration the best interests of the child;

25. *Notes* the second consultative meeting on strengthening partnerships with national rapporteurs and relevant mechanisms on trafficking in persons, held in Bangkok on 21 and 22 May 2014, co-hosted by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the establishment of an informal network of such mechanisms located all over the world to address trafficking in persons in a consistent manner and to exchange information and best practices built on different national experiences, requests the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue its efforts to collect information on national efforts to combat trafficking in persons, as well as on relevant national mechanisms, to make up-to-date information available to Member States,

and invites Member States to host consultative meetings between relevant national mechanisms on trafficking in persons that continue transnational dialogue and the exchange of information on common challenges;

26. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in its capacity as fund manager of the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to encourage contributions by States and all other relevant stakeholders to the trust fund;

27. *Welcomes* the biennial publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, looks forward to the next such report, to be produced by the Office in 2022, pursuant to the Global Plan of Action, and encourages Member States to provide to the Office evidence-based data on patterns, flows and forms of trafficking in persons, including for the purpose of the removal of organs;

28. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, including recommendations on measures to bring greater urgency to and improve the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons and on measures to increase the resilience and responsiveness of efforts to fight trafficking in persons in the context of COVID-19.

*53rd plenary meeting
16 December 2021*
