

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

08 April 2013

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to enclose herewith a letter and its enclosure by H.E. Mr. Martin Sajdik, Permanent Representative of Austria and H.E. Mr. Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima, Permanent Representative of Cape Verde, the Co-Facilitators to conduct open-ended informal consultations with Member States with a view to determining the modalities of the 13 May 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat trafficking in persons, inviting you to attend the second round of informal consultations to be held on 9 April 2013.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Zdravko Ponos', written over a horizontal line.

Zdravko Ponos
Chef de Cabinet

To All Permanent Representative
And Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission of Austria
to the United Nations in New York

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CAPE VERDE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

New York, 8 April 2013

Excellency,

As indicated by the Co-Facilitators on the occasion of the first meeting of informal consultations held on March 26th on the modalities for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons please find attached a document outlining proposed organizational arrangements for the high-level meeting on May 13th, noting in particular the ideas for panellists and themes, as well as a draft resolution, intended to facilitate further discussions among Member States with a view to concluding as swiftly as possible the informal consultations.

Responding to wishes from delegations to move ahead more quickly, the next meeting is scheduled to take place on April 9th at 4pm in the ECOSOC Chamber, where we hope to hear more from Member States on the substance of the meeting, their views on proposed themes and speakers.

Another meeting will be held on April 11th at 3pm in Conference Room 4.

We look forward to engaging further with delegations on this most important subject and count on your active participation. For further information please contact Ms. Nadia Kalb of the Permanent Mission of Austria (+1-917-542-8434; nadia.kalb@bmeia.gv.at) or Mr. José Carlos Mendonça of the Permanent Mission of Cape Verde (+1-212-472-0333; josecvgomes@hotmail.com).

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Martin Sajdik
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Austria
to the United Nations

Antonio Pedro Monteiro Lima
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cape Verde
to the United Nations

To all Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers
to the United Nations New York

67/... Modalities, format and organization of the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons

The General Assembly,

pp.1 Recalling its resolution 67/190 of 20 December 2012, in which it refers to its decision to conduct, in 2013, an appraisal on the progress achieved in the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action on the Combat of Trafficking in Person and decided to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session, no later than July 2013, in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments; *(based on Res. 67/190 op 12)*

pp.2 Recalling its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010 by which it adopted the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons;

pp.3 Reaffirming its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, with which it adopted 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; *(Res. 64/293 pp 6, shorter)*

pp.4 Recalling its decision in paragraph 13 of resolution 67/190 of 20 December 2012 to enable in the high level meeting the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, whose role is emphasized in the Global Plan of Action; *(based on Res. 67/190 op 13)*

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will be held on Monday, 13 May 2013, [and on 14 May in the morning if the extent of the list of speakers so demands], and will consist of an opening plenary meeting, two consecutive interactive panel discussions and a closing plenary meeting; *(based on Res. 65/279 op 1)*

2. *Decides* that the opening plenary meeting will feature statements by President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNODC, other representatives from the UN-system, high-level representatives from Member States and observers as well as representatives from civil society including an eminent person actively engaged in the fight against trafficking in persons and a survivor to be identified by the President of the General Assembly; *(based on Res. 65/279 op2, Res. 65/267 op4, Res. 66/124 op3)*

3. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the interactive panel discussions to be chaired by Member States at the invitation of the President of the General Assembly will be as follows: *(based on Res. 65/279 op 3)*

- a. The interactive panel discussion 1 will address the theme: The Global Plan of Action and Effective Partnerships to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking;
- b. The interactive panel discussion 2 will address the theme: Implementing Best Practices for Prevention and Prosecution under the Global Plan of Action and Relevant Legal Instruments;
- c. The Chairs of the interactive panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting, followed by final remarks by the President of the General Assembly;

d. In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in each panel discussion will include Member States, observers, representatives of UN organizations and entities as well as, in accordance with Resolution 67/190, representatives of international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media;

4. *Recalls* its request in paragraph 14 of resolution 67/190 of 20 December 2012 that the President of the General Assembly prepare a summary of the high-level meeting;

5. *Invites* Member States and observers to be represented at the highest possible level at the high-level meeting; *(based on Res. 65/180 op 3, Res 65/267 op 6)*

6. *Encourages* Member States to include in their delegations to the high-level meeting representatives of civil society, including non-governmental organizations active in combating trafficking in persons, the private sector and the media; *(based op4 Res.65/180, op6 Res. 65/238)*

7. *Invites* all relevant United Nations entities, other relevant intergovernmental, regional and sub-regional organizations and representatives of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council involved in combating trafficking in persons, to participate in the high-level meeting; *(based on Res. 65/180 op12)*

8. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to draw up a list of representatives of other relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media active in combating trafficking in persons, taking into account, to the extent possible, the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration and for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the High-level Meeting, including the panel discussions; *(based on Res. 65/238 op 15)*

9. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements of the meetings, taking into account the length of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the survivor to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the interactive panel discussions, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation. *(based on op.12 65/267 op12, Res. 66/124, op 9, Res. 65/238 op 5)*

10. *Encourages* Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector entities, and other relevant stakeholders to consider supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries, in particular representatives of non-governmental organizations from those countries, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in this regard; *(based on Res. 65/267 op 11, Res. 66/124 op 8)*

11. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting shall be webcast;

12. *Encourages* Member States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established by the Global Plan of Action.

Draft elements for Organization of the
High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to
Combat Trafficking in Persons
13 May 2013

The following elements are based on Member States' views on the format, content, themes and participation in the high-level meeting of the General Assembly expressed during informal consultations on 26 March. Different views were expressed at that meeting concerning the format for an agreement on the organization of the meeting. Noting in particular the ideas for panelists and themes for the high-level meeting, the following elements could be useful to delegations in their considerations.

Introduction

The General Assembly, by its Resolution 67/190, decided that an appraisal of the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons was to take place at a high-level meeting of the General Assembly, within existing resources, at its sixty-seventh session, no later than July 2013, in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments. OP 13 of this Resolution determines that co-facilitators appointed by the President of the General Assembly are to assist him in conducting informal consultations with a view to determining the modalities of that meeting, including on the participation of international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, whose role is emphasized in the Global Plan of Action.

In a letter dated 28 February 2013 the President of the General Assembly informed Member States that he had decided to schedule the high-level meeting for 13 May 2013 and invited them to be represented at the highest possible level.

Objectives and expected outcome

As to the objectives for the high-level meeting, please refer to the Food for Thought paper circulated by the President of the General Assembly on behalf of the Co-Facilitators on 20 March 2013.

As to the outcome, OP 14 of Resolution 67/190 requests the President of the General Assembly to prepare a summary of the high-level meeting.

Programme of the High-level Meeting

Opening and closing sessions

The meeting could consist of an opening session with possible statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General, the Executive Director of UNODC, other representatives from the UN-system, high-level representatives from Member States and observers as well as representatives from civil society including an eminent person actively engaged in the fight against trafficking in persons and a survivor to be identified by the

President of the General Assembly. A list of speakers will be maintained. The high-level meeting could begin as early as 9am or be extended to the morning of May 14th to accommodate statements from all high-level representatives.

The meeting could be concluded by a closing session featuring summaries by the Chairs/Moderators of the panel discussions followed by final remarks by the President of the General Assembly, who will prepare a summary of the high level meeting in accordance with Resolution 67/190.

Interactive Panel Discussions

The meeting could include two interactive panel discussions:

Morning Interactive Panel discussion (Chairs from Member States to be decided by the PGA)
Theme: The Global Plan of Action and Effective Partnerships to Assist Victims of Human Trafficking.

Rationale: This would cover the "Protection" of victims and "Partnership" pillars (two of the four "P's") of the Global Plan of Action, with a particular emphasis on the Global Plan's innovative UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children.

Afternoon Interactive Panel discussion (Chairs from Member States to be decided by the PGA)

Theme: Implementing Best Practices for Prevention and Prosecution under the Global Plan of Action and Relevant Legal Instruments.

Rationale: This would cover the "Prevention" and "Prosecution" pillars (the remaining two "P's") of the Global Plan of Action as well as Resolution 67/190's suggestion that the implementation of relevant legal instruments also be considered.

Thus, all four pillars of the Global Plan of Action as well as relevant legal instruments would be addressed, with a particular emphasis on participation from victims.

Following presentations by the panelists, the floor will be open to delegates and other participants to pose questions and to share their experience and perspectives. Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion. There will be no established list of speakers.

Participation

In his letter dated 28 February 2013 the President of the General Assembly invited Member States to be represented at the highest possible level. In order to ensure that all high-level representatives wishing to make a statement can do so, Member States are requested to inform Ms. Antonina Poliakova, poliakova@un.org, 212-963-7624, Room S-3082 at what level they will be represented and whether they wish to speak in the opening session.

In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions participants in the interactive panel discussions will include Member States, observers, representatives of entities of the UN system as well as, in accordance with Resolution 67/190 representatives of international, regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, whose role is emphasized in the Global Plan of Action. The Panelists for the Interactive Panel Discussions will be selected by the President of the General Assembly with due regard to geographical and gender balance, their availability, financial readiness to come despite lack of funds, mindful of the limited time

available for panelists in light of the need to allow for interventions from Member States. Each Panel could include at least one representative from a Member State, one representative from an international or regional organization and one representative from civil society. Bearing this in mind, suggested panelists and participants might include:

- Representatives/ Experts from Member States, such as from law enforcement or national mechanisms to combat human trafficking
- Special Rapporteur on human trafficking Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezielo (Nigeria), Special Rapporteur on Contemporary forms of slavery Ms. Gulnara Shahinian (Armenia), SRSG on Violence against Children Ms. Marta Santos Pais (Portugal), Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women Ms. Rashida Manjoo (South Africa)
- Representatives from UN agencies, funds and programmes (UN WOMEN, UNICEF, ILO, OHCHR, UNHCR)
- Chair of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children Dr. Aleya Hammad (Egypt)
- Chair of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice H.R.H. Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol (Thailand)
- Chair of the UN Convention on Transnational Organized Crime Conference of State Parties Working Group on Trafficking in Persons (new chair to be appointed)
- Representatives from international and regional organizations, including possible Coordinators/ Special Representatives on Trafficking (IOM, OSCE, AU, EU Interpol)
- A recipient of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking
- A survivor

Representatives from civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector, and the media (such as CEO or advocates in the private sector, journalists, academic leaders and others). As to those representatives from relevant non-governmental organizations not in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council active in combating human trafficking, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media active in combating trafficking in persons, the President of the General Assembly is requested to draw up a list taking into account, to the extent possible, the principle of equitable geographical representation, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration and for a final decision by the Assembly on participation in the High-level Meeting, including the panel discussions.

As per usual practice the detailed organizational arrangements will be finalized by the President of the General Assembly and communicated to Member States.

Trust Fund Pledges

Consistent with the emphasis on protection of and assistance to victims, it is hoped that the High Level Meeting will encourage critically needed support for the *United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*, one of the most innovative and important aspects of the Global Plan of Action. The Fund's focus is to provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, through established channels of assistance, such as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. This includes running shelters and emergency housing, offering rehabilitation and reintegration services, providing income generation advice and legal support, and helping victims with psychosocial counseling and medical treatment. Donations directly help someone who has been victimized by human traffickers.

8 April 2013

Pledges to the Trust Fund will be prominently acknowledged during the High Level Meeting. Member States wishing to make a pledge to the Trust Fund in advance of or during the high-level meeting are respectfully requested to contact Ms. Nadia Kalb, of the Permanent Mission of Austria at +1-917-542-8434 (nadia.kalb@bmeia.gv.at), or Ms. Simone Monasebian, of the UNODC New York Office, at +1-212-963-5631 (monasebian@un.org).

Website

A website to be established by the President of the General Assembly will contain all relevant documents and information for the meeting. The proceedings of the high-level meeting could be webcast.