

ECOSOC Resolution 2008/33

Strengthening coordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing overall coordination and guidance for the United Nations operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,²

Reaffirming all previous resolutions of United Nations bodies on the problem of trafficking in persons,

Recalling resolution 17/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons,³ which underlined the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the problem of human trafficking through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing that the provision of effective support to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols should be an important part of the coordination efforts of the United Nations system on the issue of trafficking in persons,

Noting the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, the thematic debate of the General Assembly on human trafficking, held in New York on 3 June 2008, and the observations made at the thematic debate and the Vienna Forum,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 61/180 of 20 December 2006, entitled “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”, and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27 of 27 July 2006, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking”,

Recognizing the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in respect of addressing the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 10 (E/2008/30)*, chap. I, sect. D.

Highlighting that strengthened international cooperation and coordination are needed to combat the activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from the trafficking in persons, to protect and assist all victims, with full respect for their human rights, and to ensure the exercise of due diligence with respect to prevention and investigation and punishment of perpetrators,

Underlining the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the problem of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of trafficking in persons requires a comprehensive approach, including addressing social and economic factors that make persons more vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, lack of opportunity, discrimination and marginalization, as well as strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption and discouraging and reducing demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that thus promotes trafficking,

1. *Urges* all States, individually and through international cooperation, as well as the United Nations system, to increase, in a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated manner, efforts to counter trafficking in persons;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,² as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;⁴

3. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to make full use of existing instruments against trafficking in persons;

4. *Invites* Governments, regional and international organizations, and civil society to address, inter alia, the economic and social factors that breed and encourage trafficking in persons as well as to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons through:

(a) Appropriate housing;

(b) Counselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand;

(c) Medical, psychological and material assistance;

(d) Employment, educational and training opportunities;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant actors from the international community to take into account the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons;

⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 96, No. 1342.

6. *Calls upon* all States to fully implement the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27, entitled “Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking”;

7. *Calls for* full implementation of relevant instruments for the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, and protection of victims of trafficking;

8. *Reiterates the invitation* to Member States to consider the advisability of establishing a United Nations strategy or plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking;

9. *Welcomes* the work carried out under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside of the United Nations system, utilizing extrabudgetary resources, and to invite such organizations to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Cooperation Group;

10. *Invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to facilitate optimum implementation of coordination functions;

11. *Highlights* the role of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with its high priorities, and to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

*44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008*