



**Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children**



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Concept Note**

**Second Consultative Meeting on Strengthening Partnerships with  
National Rapporteurs on Trafficking in Persons and Equivalent Mechanisms  
21-22 May 2014**

**Chatrium Residence Sathon, 291 Soi Naradhiwas, Rajanagarindra 24, New Sathon  
Road, Bangkok 10120, Thailand**

**Context**

The UN General Assembly in its Resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, including Resolution 63/156, 61/144 and A/RES/59/166 recommended that States consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking. In 18 December 2013, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/68/457 which inter alia “Invites the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, pursuant to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, to consider the need for meetings of representatives of national coordinating mechanisms on combating trafficking in persons, with a view to facilitating, inter alia, better international coordination and information exchange on good practices to address the problem of trafficking in persons. Moreover, the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights recommended that States and, where applicable, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, consider establishing mechanisms to monitor and evaluate the human rights impact of anti-trafficking laws, policies, programmes and interventions. The UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (GA resolution 64/293, 2010) encourages effective cooperation and coordination of efforts at the national, bilateral, sub-regional, regional and international levels and taking advantage of the networks provided by relevant organizations sharing of best practices in capacity-building for responding to and combating trafficking in persons.

In exercising her mandate, the Special Rapporteur has noted the importance of establishing national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms, which help in monitoring, evaluating but also coordinating anti-trafficking policies and programmes. In particular, in her views, the analysis and data provided by national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms are instrumental in measuring the effectiveness of steps taken to prevent human trafficking, prosecute perpetrators and protect victims.

The Special Rapporteur's mandate also includes, among others, identifying and sharing best practices as well as challenges and obstacles in order to uphold and protect the human rights of the victims; and giving particular emphasis to the identification of concrete areas and means for international cooperation to tackle the issue of trafficking in persons. In this connection, the Special Rapporteur has emphasized that cooperation and exchange of expertise and good practices among countries would positively contribute to increasing the effectiveness of anti-trafficking efforts. In her report to the Human Right Council at its 10th session (A/HRC/10/16) , she recommended that States should consider the appointment of a national rapporteur who will who will liaise with the Special Rapporteur to gather, exchange, and process information on trafficking in Persons and monitor action<sup>1</sup>. This recommendation is in line with article 9 of the Palermo Protocol which requires States to develop comprehensive policies, programmes and other measures such as research, information and mass media campaigns and social and economic initiatives to prevent and combat trafficking in persons (9.2) while including cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society (9.3).

In October 2010, participants in the Dakar consultation, convened by the Special Rapporteur, on the role of regional and sub-regional mechanisms in international efforts to counter trafficking in persons, especially in women and children, highlighted that a pre-requisite to wider cooperation was effective coordination at the national and regional levels through structures such as focal points, coordinators or rapporteurs. In February 2012, the Special Rapporteur participated in the meeting of the Informal Network of European National Rapporteurs or Equivalent Mechanisms, organized by the European Commission convened by the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, where the participants shared information on their work and activities and discussed the challenges and good practices for implementing the existing National Referral Mechanisms, the advantages of having Transnational Referral Mechanisms as well as the issues of victim identification and safe return.

On 23 and 24 May 2013 in Berlin, the Special Rapporteur convened a consultation aimed at discussing ways to strengthen partnerships with and among National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms (NREMs) on trafficking in person. This consultation brought together for the first time National Rapporteurs, representatives of coordinating mechanisms and of equivalent mechanisms from seventeen countries across the globe. The discussion revolved around the main function of NREMs including: data collection and analysis, monitoring, evaluating and reporting the impact of anti-trafficking policies, but also fostering partnership and coordination at national, regional and international levels. The participants valued this meeting as a good platform for discussing common issues, exchanging good practices and establishing contacts and expressed the wish that it be continued in another region if possible.

### **Objectives and expected outcomes of the consultation**

As a follow-up to the Berlin meeting, the Special Rapporteur is convening, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, a Second Consultative Meeting on Strengthening Partnerships with National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms on Trafficking in Persons in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 and 22 May 2014.

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<sup>1</sup> A/HRC/10/16, p.27

The objectives of the meeting are as follows:

1. To deepen discussion on the importance/ benefits of establishing and implementing the mandate of National Rapporteurs and Equivalent Mechanisms;
2. To promote exchange of information on current trends, good practices and lessons learnt from the activities of various national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms carrying out similar functions, including national coordinating mechanisms and ;
3. To provide a forum for developing and enhancing networking between national rapporteurs and equivalent mechanisms across countries and regions.

The expected outcome of the consultation is to develop, based on the observations and conclusions of the participants, a set of recommendations to strengthen existing NREMs and foster cooperation among such institutions with the view to sharing expertise and good practices across regions and within regions.

### **Modalities**

The meeting will be organized as a two-day consultation. It will consist of a number of sessions addressing, amongst others, the following topics:

1. NREMs institutional frameworks and mandates;

*Defining among others, the core functions of a national rapporteur; identifying the institutional structure needed for the successful implementation of the mandate; and outlaying the existing international and regional tools supporting the work of NREMs*

2. Differences and similarities between Rapporteurs and Coordinating mechanisms;

*Discussing among others, the conceptual differences and underlining the pros and cons in having separate dedicated institutions*

3. Typical dilemma: *challenges in implementing the mandate*

4. Exchanging Best Practices: *progress made and successful implementation*

5. Fostering Partnership

*Establishing good working relations with all stakeholders (Government and non-governmental organizations) while retaining independence and impartiality; The role of NREMs in strengthening cooperation and partnerships between countries of destination, transit and origin.*

6. Discussing ways forward

National rapporteurs and representatives of equivalent mechanisms from countries across different regions of the world will participate in this event by invitation.

The meeting will be held in English only; no simultaneous interpretation in any other UN languages will be provided.