



Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distr.: General
16 July 2010

Original: English

Fifth session

Vienna, 18-22 October 2010

Item 2 (b) of the provisional agenda*

**Review of the implementation of the United Nations
Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and
the Protocols thereto: Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and
Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and
Children**

Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

Report of the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. The Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) is a multi-stakeholder initiative that provides global access to expertise, knowledge and innovative partnerships with a view to countering trafficking in persons.
2. UN.GIFT was launched in March 2007 by the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).
3. UN.GIFT was made possible by a grant of the United Arab Emirates and has since received additional financial support from the Governments of Australia, Austria and Canada, as well as UNICEF, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships and public donations. As at June 2010, the Governments of Belgium and Switzerland also contributed to UN.GIFT, to its joint programme in Serbia.
4. UN.GIFT aims to mobilize State and non-State actors in the fight against human trafficking by doing the following: (a) reducing the vulnerability of potential

* CTOC/COP/2010/1.



victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; (b) ensuring adequate protection and support to victims of trafficking; and (c) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

5. In carrying out its mission, UN.GIFT has aimed to increase knowledge about and awareness of human trafficking, to promote effective rights-based responses, to build and develop the capacity of State and non-State actors, and to foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.

6. The immediate objectives of UN.GIFT are to increase awareness, to foster global commitment and action to counter human trafficking in partnership with different stakeholders, including Governments, the international community, non-governmental organizations and other elements of civil society and the media, and to help create and strengthen support structures for victims of trafficking.

7. During 2007 and 2008, a number of events were organized in the framework of UN.GIFT in Brazil, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, India, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Uganda. These events aimed to raise awareness and knowledge of the many geographical and thematic dimensions of human trafficking. They also helped identify the technical assistance needs of countries for the 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 Crime¹ and build momentum ahead of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008.

8. The Vienna Forum raised awareness, promoted cooperation and fostered worldwide partnerships. It gathered over 1,600 participants from around the world and representatives of over 130 Governments. On the themes of vulnerability, impact and action, participants contextualized the various dimensions of human trafficking and the relationship between such trafficking and security, development and human rights. In addition to the formal sessions and debate, special events featuring parliamentarians, women leaders, representatives of the private sector and the film industry, artists and youth were organized.²

II. Global and collective advocacy efforts to raise awareness of human trafficking

1. Start Freedom, a campaign to engage youth in the fight against human trafficking

9. UN.GIFT and the non-governmental organization Stop the Traffik launched Start Freedom, a campaign designed to engage youths in action against human trafficking. Start Freedom was launched with an eight-minute-long video broadcast from United Nations Headquarters, in New York.

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

² See *Vienna Forum Report: a Way Forward to Combat Human Trafficking*, available from <http://www.ungift.org/docs/ungift/pdf/vf/ebook2.pdf>.

10. The Start Freedom website (<http://www.stophetraffik.org/startfreedom>) is the main vehicle for helping young people to educate themselves and others about human trafficking. The website contains educational kits including creative lessons and activities that explain what human trafficking is and what people can do about it and that focus on issues such as trafficking and responsible consumerism, and gender and human trafficking. The resources are available in the six official languages of the United Nations, as well as Dutch and Hindi.

11. During “Start Freedom Week”, in March 2010, a number of activities including plays, debates and performances were organized by youth around the world. Over 200 students from Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Cambodia, China (Hong Kong Special Administrative Region), Egypt, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America took part in the first Start Freedom “global classroom”.

2. Exhibitions on human trafficking

Photographs depicting child trafficking

12. UN.GIFT documented, through photographs, common ways in which children are exploited, for example in begging and pickpocketing, in order to raise awareness of human trafficking and especially of trafficking in children. The photographs showed the routes used to traffic children from Eastern Europe to Central and Western Europe.

13. In July 2009, the first phase of this initiative was carried out in Austria and Bulgaria and was made possible by the cooperation of these two countries’ national coordination mechanisms on trafficking in human beings. A photographer was able to accompany police units in their daily patrols and to benefit from the expertise of local civil society organizations. The second phase of the initiative was carried out in Serbia in November 2009. The photographs are available to all UN.GIFT partners and other stakeholders working to combat human trafficking.

“Welcome to Gulu”: combating trafficking in persons through collective action and art

14. The use of children as soldiers and the abduction of young girls are two of the most heinous aspects of human trafficking. The district of Gulu and other areas of northern Uganda have been affected by the abduction, recruitment and conscription of thousands of children by rebel groups. In January 2009, United States artist Ross Bleckner joined UNODC and the International Criminal Court’s Trust Fund for Victims to assist in the rehabilitation of former child soldiers and abducted girls through art therapy in Gulu. There, he led a workshop that encouraged the children to come to terms with their past through artistic expression.

15. One of the results of the workshop was the exhibition “Welcome to Gulu”, held at United Nations Headquarters, in New York, in May 2009, featuring paintings by the children of Gulu. The event was opened by the Secretary-General, who recognized that art had a unique and important mission in advancing peace and human rights. During the event, Ross Bleckner was appointed UNODC Goodwill Ambassador to combat human trafficking, with a two-year action plan.

Human trafficking for the purpose of domestic servitude

16. In observation of the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, on 2 December 2009 UN.GIFT put the spotlight on today's slaves, who are working in households all over the world. A high-level panel composed of senior officials in the Austrian Government and representatives of civil society and international organizations discussed the legal provisions for domestic workers in Austria, the indicators of exploitation and the need for increasing awareness of domestic servitude. Following the discussion, musicians and dancers performed at the Vienna International Centre to draw further attention to the issue. In addition, "Esclavage domestique", an art exhibition developed by the Comité contre l'esclavage moderne, a French non-governmental organization, was opened and shown at the United Nations in Vienna from 2 to 18 December 2009. The exhibition generated a lot of interest among viewers and will travel to other United Nations duty stations, starting with Geneva in June 2010.

3. Human trafficking in the media

17. UN.GIFT produced two public service announcements for the mainstream media to raise awareness of trafficking in persons, one of which featured actress Emma Thompson and the voices of victims. Both announcements were aired on CNN, Al Jazeera and Deutsche Welle. UN.GIFT promoted a campaign produced by and shown on CNN International to highlight the engagement of business leaders in the fight against human trafficking. The initiative was carried out within the framework of the UN.GIFT Women Leaders' Council and in partnership with the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign. In addition, CNN produced a "vignette" on human trafficking, which it aired approximately 1,000 times in key prime time slots between September 2009 and April 2010.

18. UN.GIFT has supported the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign through the production of a series of documentaries on human trafficking entitled "Working lives", which was aired on BBC World News. The series comprised five 30-minute episodes addressing different aspects of trafficking in persons and attempts from around the world to find solutions. The series aims to demonstrate the commercial and human aspects of the problem, explore why it exists and offer ideas for what businesses can do to alleviate it. The documentaries were aired on BBC World News in May 2010 and will continue to be aired in November 2010.

4. UN.GIFT and social media

19. A virtual community of people interested in the work of UN.GIFT has been established on Facebook. The group has over 6,000 subscribers and is administered by volunteers in cooperation with UN.GIFT. The group is an example of how social networking can help raise awareness and be used to share information on work being done to counter human trafficking. In addition, UN.GIFT has created a Twitter account that is updated daily.

5. Raising awareness during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa

20. The United Nations developed a joint awareness-raising campaign in the framework of UN.GIFT to be carried out during the 2010 World Cup in South Africa to sensitize the population to human trafficking. The campaign material was

elaborated jointly by United Nations entities on the ground including ILO, OHCHR, UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNODC, as well as IOM. In order to maximize the impact of the campaign throughout the country, those entities worked with their grass-roots partners. UNODC, for instance, worked with coordinators of victim empowerment programmes in various South African provinces, as well as with three UNODC-run providers of comprehensive services to victims.

21. UNICEF established child-friendly spaces inside four “FIFA Fan Fests” (in Soweto, Sandton, Port Elizabeth and Nelspruit) to provide safe havens for children who might be at risk of exploitation and abuse.

22. UNIFEM held football tournaments and community outreach activities in Johannesburg to raise awareness about trafficking in women and girls at the community level, and invited participants to say no to violence against women. A round table brought together Government representatives, United Nations agencies and civil society to discuss the prevention of trafficking in women and children.

23. IOM ensured that assistance was readily available to victims through a comprehensive programme. Local communities in the townships and rural areas have become actively involved in countering trafficking in persons and IOM will provide training and awareness-raising material to such communities, including to personnel in sectors such as law enforcement, social development and civil society, and to educational and religious institutions. The awareness-raising material provided by UN.GIFT will allow further distribution of information by participants attending IOM workshops and presentations in their communities of origin.

24. These and other activities carried out by the United Nations and other international organizations in South Africa will be used to promote the UN.GIFT-supported campaign and ensure that it targets those groups that are engaged, on a daily basis, in the country’s fight against human trafficking. In addition, South African Airways will feature UN.GIFT in the July issue of its in-flight magazine to raise awareness about human trafficking.

III. Evidence-based knowledge on human trafficking to contribute to global, regional and national policy development

A. Global Report on Trafficking in Persons

25. UNODC carried out, in the framework of UN.GIFT, a major data collection exercise covering 155 countries and territories. The research focused on countries’ legislative and administrative frameworks to prevent and combat human trafficking, the criminal justice response (number of investigations, prosecutions and convictions), the services provided to victims (number of victims identified and assisted by the competent authorities) and profiles of offenders and victims.

26. An analysis of the data is contained in the UNODC *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, launched in February 2009. The report shows that over the past few years, the number of countries that have taken steps to implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol has doubled. However, there are still many countries, particularly in Africa, that lack the necessary legal instruments. The

report also shows an increase in the number of convictions, although that increase is not proportionate to the growing awareness (and, probably, size) of the problem. Most convictions still take place in only a few countries and, during the period 2007-2008, two of every five countries covered by the report had not recorded a single conviction.

27. The report showed that human trafficking was most commonly perpetrated for the purpose of sexual exploitation (79 per cent) and forced labour (18 per cent). Because it is more frequently reported, sexual exploitation has become the most documented type of trafficking in aggregate statistics. In comparison, other forms of exploitation (such as forced or bonded labour; domestic servitude and forced marriage; organ removal; and the exploitation of children in begging, the sex trade, and warfare) are underreported.

28. Furthermore, the data showed that persons were often trafficked within regions, although there were also cases of trafficking over greater distances. Thus, Europe was the destination of victims from the widest range of countries of origin, while victims from East Asia were trafficked to the widest range of countries of destination. The Americas were prominent both as places of origin and destination of human trafficking victims.

29. The report was made possible due to the information provided to UNODC by Member States, ILO, IOM and several non-governmental organizations.

30. The report represents an important landmark in terms of cooperation between UNODC and Member States with regard to the sharing of data and reporting on crime issues. The basic principle of using official statistics resulted in a product that has enhanced knowledge on the issue of human trafficking and, at the same time, created consensus among the international community on gaps in knowledge and the importance of data collection exercises led by the United Nations.

B. Meeting of researchers

31. IOM organized a meeting of researchers, in collaboration with UNODC and ILO, held in Cairo on 11 and 12 January 2008. The overall objective of the meeting was to contribute to the prevention and elimination of human trafficking by developing a set of recommendations to promote new ways of studying the problem and to enhance the quality of research on the subject.

32. Twenty leading researchers from across the world attended the meeting in order to assess the current state of research on human trafficking, identify current gaps in knowledge, share innovative research and data collection methods and highlight the importance of evaluating and assessing programmes to counter human trafficking.

33. Two key recommendations resulting from the meeting were: (a) to establish an interdisciplinary advisory research network on human trafficking to promote a new global agenda for conducting research on such trafficking; and (b) to develop measures, including tools and guidelines, to enhance research capacities in developing countries in order to support more and better research and data on human trafficking.

IV. Greater coordination and cooperation among international organizations and innovative public-private partnerships

A. Women Leaders' Council

34. UN.GIFT launched and has served as the secretariat of the Women Leaders' Council, an innovative partnership of 33 prominent women leaders from around the world. The objective of the Women Leaders' Council is to advance the fight against human trafficking by promoting a high level of professional outreach, using the wealth of knowledge and experience in women's issues and human rights of its members. The Council demonstrates the important leadership role played by women in countering human trafficking and establishes connections across sectors and regions to mobilize resources, knowledge and experience. It serves as a catalyst for strengthening women's capacity and contribution towards preventing and suppressing trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and prosecuting offenders.

35. In the framework of the Women Leaders' Council, Sabeeka Bint Ibrahim Al-Khalifa of Bahrain hosted a conference entitled "Human trafficking at the crossroads", held in Manama on 2 and 3 March 2009. The aim of the conference was to foster public-private partnerships to fight human trafficking and to promote rapid and effective action against the exploitation of human beings in order to bring an end to the suffering that such exploitation causes to many victims.

36. The conference produced the Manama Declaration, which is testimony to the commitment of the region to fight human trafficking and emphasizes the role of businesses in encouraging corporate responsibility. The Manama Declaration called for zero tolerance for human trafficking among the business community.

B. Human trafficking and parliamentarians

37. Ahead of the Vienna Forum, UN.GIFT, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Austrian Parliament hosted a parliamentary forum in Vienna on 12 February 2008. As a follow-up to that forum, UNODC, UN.GIFT and IPU developed a handbook for parliamentarians containing a compilation of international laws and good practices developed to combat trafficking in persons. The publication, entitled *Combating Trafficking in Persons: a Handbook for Parliamentarians*, offers guidance on how national legislation can be brought in line with international standards and outlines measures to prevent the crime of trafficking in persons, prosecute the offenders and protect the victims. The handbook was launched in April 2009 at the 120th Assembly of IPU, held in Addis Ababa, which was attended by over 1,000 parliamentarians from all over the world.

C. Private sector engagement in the fight against human trafficking

1. Private sector survey on human trafficking

38. In order to better understand corporate perceptions and concerns regarding human trafficking, raise awareness of the issue and determine how the United

Nations system can more effectively support business efforts to combat the problem, the Global Compact, ILO and UN.GIFT collaborated to produce and carry out a private sector survey on human trafficking.

39. While companies responding to the survey indicated that they were aware of human trafficking and there was a general consensus that human trafficking was morally unacceptable, less than 20 per cent of respondents indicated that human trafficking posed a serious threat to the security of their global supply chains and only 31 per cent identified being motivated to address human trafficking in order to manage risk and maintain the company's reputation. Less than 60 per cent of businesses surveyed reported having a company policy on human trafficking and only 18 per cent of companies made use of risk assessments. Similarly, while 72 per cent of participants indicated that staff involved in ensuring corporate social responsibility would benefit from guidance material and training on human trafficking, only 36 per cent believed that engagement with senior management was necessary.

40. The survey's results clearly indicate that companies need better access to information about human trafficking and the relationship between human trafficking and business activities. Respondents showed particular interest in learning more about international standards and in exchanging information about industry best practices. Additionally, with respect to technical guidance, company participants were especially interested in training and policy development and also indicated that guidance on measuring impact and auditing, as well as communications, would be beneficial.

41. As the results of the private sector survey on human trafficking indicate, the connection between human trafficking and business has yet to be sufficiently recognized by most companies. While unmonitored business activity can facilitate human trafficking, companies can contribute to its eradication. Businesses must realize that by failing to address human trafficking they risk violating international standards and laws, tarnishing their reputation and undermining stakeholder relationships.

42. UN.GIFT, ILO and the Global Compact included in their communication material to companies information on how to avoid the risk of human trafficking by making it harder to traffic people using their products, premises or services and by helping raise awareness of the problem. In addition, businesses can adopt and implement corporate policies that respect human rights and labour standards, as well as anti-corruption measures.

43. Using the results of the survey as a basis for further action, UN.GIFT, the Global Compact, ILO and IOM are working together to develop a publication on human trafficking and business that includes examples of good corporate practices to serve as guidance material to inform companies on trafficking in persons and to provide practical steps that companies can take to help prevent and combat the crime. *Human Trafficking and Business: Good Practices to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking* was launched at the Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010, held in New York on 24 and 25 June.

2. Awareness-raising campaigns in cooperation with the private sector

44. UN.GIFT is implementing campaigns focusing on the travel and transportation industry to support prevention efforts by increasing the level of knowledge of travellers and potential victims of human trafficking. UN.GIFT is working with different railway and bus companies, airlines and hotels in different regions.

45. Eurolines, Hilton Hotel Vienna, Qatar Airways, South African Airways and the Austria national railway company have partnered with UN.GIFT to raise awareness of and sensitize travellers to human trafficking, as well as to train their staff so that they are aware of the crime and can help in the identification of potential victims of human trafficking.

46. In addition to participating in the awareness-raising campaign, the Austrian national railway company has agreed to provide direct support to victims by assisting with the reintegration of a former victim of human trafficking into the regular labour market. The company will offer a former victim of trafficking a job opportunity and, during the period of employment, the Austrian specialized service provider Lefö will offer counselling to the victim and, jointly with UN.GIFT, will monitor and assess the success of the project.

47. In order to raise awareness and provide training materials, UN.GIFT and the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign are working jointly to develop the content for an e-learning tool for private companies. The e-learning tool is expected to serve as an interactive, web-based resource that will sensitize and empower company staff to understand human trafficking in general, show them how to identify potential victims and demonstrate how they can assist potential victims.

48. In addition, the e-learning tool will be used to inform managers, board members and staff at large about the importance of adopting a zero-tolerance policy towards human trafficking. It will provide information on how to incorporate and adapt policies and mechanisms to remedy violations, and assist users in developing policies that can be applied to suppliers and contractors.

3. The World Economic Forum and the “Business leaders against human trafficking” award

49. As a follow-up to the Vienna Forum, human trafficking was addressed as a “hot topic” during a session at the World Economic Forum on the Middle East held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, from 18 to 20 May 2008, where it was recognized as one of the region’s most pressing, uncertain and challenging issues. The session, entitled “Human trafficking and labour exploitation”, was organized by the Suzanne Mubarak Women’s International Peace Movement in partnership with UN.GIFT and within the framework of the Women Leaders’ Council.

50. The session focused on good practices and success stories in eradicating trafficking for labour exploitation and included a voting segment on business incentives. It also illustrated efforts undertaken by the public and private sectors to eliminate trafficking in persons within their respective areas of influence. A “partnership with the media for public awareness campaigns” was declared, with 52 per cent of the votes, to be a priority for fighting human trafficking for labour exploitation.

51. As a follow up to the World Economic Forum and in order to honour business leaders who take an active stand against human trafficking, the End Human Trafficking Now! Campaign, UN.GIFT and the Global Compact established an international award entitled “Business leaders against human trafficking”. The award will be given to acknowledge business leaders whose commitment to combat human trafficking is at the heart of their business strategy and who have made efforts to promote corporate social responsibility.

52. The award aims to reward creativity in identifying, preventing and combating human trafficking. It will commend business innovations in labour policies, supply chain management and corporate social responsibility that help to fight human trafficking. The award will serve to stimulate businesses around the world to address the scourge of human trafficking and challenge them to adopt ethical business standards.

53. The winner of the award will be determined by a jury composed of individuals of high moral stature with demonstrated commitment to the ideals of the United Nations. The jury will be supported by an advisory committee of experts on human trafficking from different sectors, including international organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the media. The award will be granted every two years. The call for nominations for the first award was announced on 1 May 2010 and the award will be presented at an international forum against human trafficking to be held in Luxor, Egypt, in December 2010.³

4. Public-private partnerships

54. A think tank to promote public-private partnerships to combat human trafficking was established by the Ministry of Women and Child Development of the Government of India, as a UN.GIFT initiative. The think tank is composed of representatives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Labour and Tourism, as well as representatives from UNODC and IOM. The private sector is represented by the Pacific Asia Travel Association, which has 250 member organizations in India, and the Apparel and Export Promotion Council of India, which has 8,000 member organizations.

55. A strategic partnership between the Apparel and Export Promotion Council and the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been forged to raise awareness about human trafficking among the Council’s member companies. An educational programme for children vulnerable to trafficking was organized by the Council, as a result of which 24 children have successfully completed the training. This initiative is an example of how the corporate sector can be engaged in the fight against human trafficking by integrating prevention into their existing business models.

56. UN.GIFT activities in India have helped it to establish a strategic partnership with the Pacific Asia Travel Association and the non-governmental organization Save the Children India to adopt a code of conduct for safe and honourable tourism in the country. The code has been presented to the Minister of Tourism and a formal media launch of the code of conduct is expected to take place in 2010.

³ For more information on the award and the nomination process, see www.businessleaderaward.org.

V. System-wide, institutional and individual capacity-building of stakeholders through the delivery of technical assistance

1. UN.GIFT joint programmes

57. The complex nature of human trafficking calls for coordinated efforts and cooperation among Governments, international organizations and other stakeholders. For this reason, UN.GIFT has identified joint programmes that draw on the specific expertise of each partner to be effective means to assist Member States in tackling human trafficking.

58. Joint programmes are part of a collective effort through which United Nations entities and national partners work together to carry out activities aimed at helping Member States achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other international commitments. Joint programming helps make United Nations support for the attainment of national goals more coherent, effective and efficient. It aims to avoid duplication, reduce costs and maximize synergies among national partners and different contributors to the United Nations system.

59. Joint programming is in line with the Secretary-General's United Nations reform agenda for enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations system in developing countries and ensuring the Organization's combined resources are put to best use. Joint programmes also seek to meet the wishes of Member States to enhance the United Nation's contribution to international development assistance while maintaining a focus on self-reliance, sustainability and capacity-building.

60. UN.GIFT multi-stakeholder joint programmes cover different regions and thematic areas and respond to evidence-based analyses of gaps and priorities identified by Member States in coordination with field offices of the UN.GIFT Steering Committee members. Joint programmes were initially identified on the basis of the needs of host Governments, the need to work regionally, the continued involvement of UN.GIFT Steering Committee members, national and field office recommendations and assessments, and the potential for the programme to be sustainable, show innovation and be replicated or scaled up.

61. Joint programmes are currently under development in Argentina and Bolivia; Central Asia; Egypt; Pakistan; Rwanda and Burundi; and Serbia. In addition to the UN.GIFT Steering Committee members, United Nations agencies working on other aspects of human trafficking, such as the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and UNIFEM, participate in the programmes.

62. The close involvement of national authorities in the development and implementation of the joint programmes has been essential to their successful development. While the different joint programmes focus on different forms of trafficking, all of them take a multifaceted approach to the problem and seek to address each of the "three Ps": prevention, protection and prosecution. In addition, they promote cooperation and coordination.

2. Expert group initiatives

63. UN.GIFT is supporting the development of guidance materials and capacity-building tools in the framework of 10 multi-agency expert group initiatives. These initiatives aim to provide guidance to practitioners on the ground and draw on the

expertise of the Steering Committee members of UN.GIFT and of experts. Eight UN.GIFT expert group initiatives have been finalized under the leadership of ILO, IOM, OSCE, UNICEF and UNODC.

64. Since forced labour is becoming a significant issue for employers ranging in size from small enterprises on the margins of the formal economy in developing countries to multinational enterprises with complex supply chains and outsourcing mechanisms, ILO has produced *Combating Forced Labour: a Handbook for Employers and Business*. The handbook provides information to employers, organizations and companies worldwide on what forced labour is, how it can affect business operations and what businesses can do to tackle the problem.

65. ILO and UNICEF have developed a *Training Manual to Fight Trafficking in Children for Labour, Sexual and Other Forms of Exploitation* to assist Governments, representatives of workers and employers, social workers, employees of child protection agencies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, civil society and the media to build capacity and provide training on child trafficking. It also provides guidance on prevention, protection and reintegration efforts.

66. IOM has developed *Guiding Principles on Memoranda of Understanding between Key Stakeholders and Law Enforcement Agencies on Counter-Trafficking Cooperation*. The guiding principles contribute to more effective cooperation between stakeholders through the development and implementation of cooperation agreements on preventing and combating trafficking in persons. It also presents benefits and challenges of formal cooperation mechanisms between stakeholders, as well as existing practices on institutionalized collaboration at the international, regional and national levels.

67. Health providers may come into contact with victims of trafficking at different stages of the trafficking process and at different stages of the victims' recovery. In order to support the work of health providers, IOM and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine produced the handbook *Caring for Trafficked Persons: Guidance for Health Providers*. The handbook provides practical, non-clinical advice to help concerned health providers understand the phenomenon of human trafficking, recognize some of the associated health problems and consider safe and appropriate approaches to providing health care to trafficked persons.

68. OSCE has developed *Analysing the Business Model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better Prevent the Crime*, in which the theoretical underpinnings that may explain the business and socio-economic factors contributing to human trafficking are addressed. This publication is expected to facilitate the implementation of holistic preventive strategies and help identify knowledge gaps. The result of exploratory research, it contributes to a debate on the issue and to the development of comprehensive counter-trafficking policies. In addition, the publication contains recommendations, ideas for next steps and guidelines for decision makers, civil society and others working on the effective prevention of human trafficking.

69. UNODC has developed the Model Law against Trafficking in Persons⁴ to promote and assist Member States in implementing the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. The model law facilitates the provision of legislative assistance, the adoption by Member States of new legislation and the revision and amendment of existing laws. It covers not only the criminalization of trafficking in persons and related offences, but also the different aspects of assistance to victims as well as the establishment of cooperation between different State authorities and non-governmental organizations. Each provision is accompanied by detailed commentary providing several options for legislators, as appropriate, as well as legal sources and examples.

70. UNODC has developed the *Anti-Human Trafficking Manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* to help strengthen technical, judicial and law enforcement capacity for effectively identifying and protecting victims of trafficking and for investigating and prosecuting offenders. Each of the modules in the manual is designed to equip criminal justice practitioners to appropriately respond to the challenges of trafficking in persons. The promising practices offered in each module are intended to reveal the complexities of the subject matter and enable practitioners to apply lessons learned by other practitioners to their own experiences in the field.

71. UNODC has published the First Aid Kit for Use by Law Enforcement First Responders in Addressing Human Trafficking. Those providing medical first aid need to know how to instantly and temporarily treat injuries and illnesses. Similarly, front-line law enforcement officers need to know how to instantly and temporarily deal with crimes. The kind of emergency treatment that law enforcement officers provide in cases of human trafficking is similar to that provided in other criminal cases, but there are some important aspects specific to human trafficking that officers need to know about. While the first aid kit is not intended as a substitute for an in-depth, specialized response to human trafficking, it is offered as a tool to help persons who may come into contact with trafficked persons to take the vital first steps necessary to protect victims and apprehend the criminals involved.

3. Strengthening support structures for victims of human trafficking

72. Civil society organizations play a crucial role in combating human trafficking around the world. They are critical partners in prevention, protection and prosecution efforts and engage in a variety of activities. These activities range from raising awareness, measuring progress of commitments made by stakeholders, contributing to the collection and analysis of data, and influencing public opinion. Civil society organizations assist governments in identifying victims of trafficking and in offering direct services to them, including the provision of legal assistance, medical and psychological aid, supporting voluntary repatriation and reintegration, and helping with integration in the country of destination.

73. Acknowledging the importance of civil society's role in the fight against human trafficking, on 1 March 2010 UN.GIFT launched a small grants facility and called on civil society organizations and providers of services to victims to submit project proposals. Over 800 non-governmental organizations have registered with

⁴ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.09.V.11.

the UN.GIFT small grants facility and project proposals were received from 76 countries.

74. The activities proposed include providing emergency support to victims and empowering vulnerable communities to collecting evidence in different parts of the world. Problems to be addressed by the proposed projects include forced labour, sexual exploitation, the lack of opportunities of vulnerable groups and the social exclusion of victims of human trafficking.

75. After the call for project proposals closed in April 2010, the eligibility of the first 300 submissions was assessed and a total of 223 proposals were found to be eligible to enter the next round of evaluations. The final selection was made by a board of experts composed of UN.GIFT Steering Committee members. Once implemented, the funded projects will be monitored and evaluated according to the standard rules and procedures of UNODC.

4. Increased operational cooperation through exchanges

76. To increase the support given to victims of trafficking by non-governmental organizations and other service providers, UN.GIFT conducted an exchange for practitioners from Austria and Nigeria in December 2008. Representatives from the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters and the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation met with officials of the Government of Austria and international organizations, including IOM and UNODC, and Austrian non-governmental organizations, such as Lefö and EXIT and ECPAT International (End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking in Children for Sexual Purposes).

77. Based on the successful exchange of experiences and promising practices, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and Other Related Matters developed a training curriculum for three-day workshops on victim support and shelter management held in various States in Nigeria in 2009. As a follow-up to the exchange, a series of meetings with UN.GIFT stakeholders, including the National Agency and law enforcement representatives from Austria and Switzerland, were held and an agreement was reached about the need to improve mutual assistance between law enforcement agencies in Europe and Nigeria. Hence, a project proposal addressing international cooperation was elaborated and is being reviewed by participating Member States.

5. Interpretation tool for assisting potential victims of human trafficking

78. Law enforcement officials and providers of services to victims often come into contact with potential victims of human trafficking who do not speak the language of the country they are in. In order to provide them with information before an interpreter can be made available, basic audio messages have been prepared in various languages and recorded so that they can be played. In this way, the persons feel safer and communication is made easier.

79. In February 2009, UNODC, UN.GIFT, the Division of Organized Crime of the Austrian Criminal Intelligence Service and Lefö partnered to develop a tool for producing and disseminating key audio messages to victims of human trafficking. Former victims of human trafficking were consulted to ensure the inclusion of their perspective. The International Criminal Police Organizations (INTERPOL) is

supporting the initiative and will assist in disseminating the tool in its member countries to support the provision of care to victims in the initial stages of an investigation.

80. In September 2009, INTERPOL presented the prototype of the tool developed by UNODC and UN.GIFT during an INTERPOL working group meeting for English-speaking West Africa, held in Ghana, and at the annual meeting of experts in trafficking in human beings of the European Police Office (Europol), held in The Hague. UNODC and UN.GIFT have translated the messages into 40 languages and converted them into an application for testing in several countries before it is launched during 2010.

VI. Independent evaluation of UN.GIFT

81. A final project evaluation is foreseen in the UN.GIFT project document. The aim of the evaluation is to derive recommendations, best practices and lessons learned and to measure the achievements, outcomes and impact of the project. In addition, it is expected to produce recommendations for the future of UN.GIFT, including with regard to whether the project should be continued, rolled out or terminated. If it is recommended that the project should be continued or rolled out, recommendations would also be provided on the UN.GIFT governance structure, taking into account the objectives included in the mandates agreed to by the relevant governing bodies.

82. The independent evaluation will be conducted in 2010 and 2011, with a preliminary evaluation report issued earlier, to be made available to Member States. The findings contained in the preliminary report will be used by the project management team and key stakeholders to undertake the necessary actions, in a timely manner, for the termination or continuation of the project. The final report will be made available in 2011 and will account for the remaining funds disbursed and activities implemented in 2010. In addition, it will incorporate and build on the findings from the preliminary report in order to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the project.

VII. Conclusion

83. UN.GIFT represents an innovative concept in the work of the United Nations on preventing and combating human trafficking, one that a wide range of stakeholders have recognized. UN.GIFT has carried out consultations with Member States in order to ensure ownership in the implementation of its various activities and is directly supporting Member States through multi-agency joint programmes and other targeted technical assistance activities.

84. As an alliance of organizations, UN.GIFT is working closely with international and regional organizations that have complementary mandates in relation to trafficking in persons. The activities that form part of the workplan of UN.GIFT and are in line with the project document are coordinated through the UN.GIFT Steering Committee with the aim of building on the expertise of its members and maximizing results.

85. As highlighted in the report, UN.GIFT has involved and partnered with various civil society organizations that work at the policy and advocacy level, as well as with providers of victim support. Also promising has been the work of engaging the private sector in various prevention activities, including for the reintegration of victims of human trafficking. These have started as pilot initiatives that will facilitate the implementation of lessons learned and allow for replication and scaling up.

86. Drawing on its partners, UN.GIFT has been carried out as a technical assistance project with mandates agreed to by the relevant governing bodies. The work programme of UN.GIFT has been extended until the end of 2010 so that the activities foreseen in the project document could be completed.

87. In order to streamline UN.GIFT activities and to better respond to the capacity-building needs of UN.GIFT stakeholders, the project's strategy for 2010 was revised. The strategic direction aims to build on the work carried out by UN.GIFT as a United Nations multi-stakeholder initiative that provides global access to expertise, knowledge and innovative partnerships to combat human trafficking.

88. The core areas of the strategy, which are in line with the original objectives of UN.GIFT, include awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation, civil society and private sector partnerships, multi-agency research and a UN.GIFT virtual knowledge hub.

89. During 2010, awareness-raising activities have focused on youth and the private sector and have included campaigns targeting businesses through key media channels and campaigns led by businesses themselves. The long-term goal is to continue to generate global awareness about human trafficking in order to increase political commitment, support prevention efforts and reduce the demand that fosters exploitation.

90. In order to support multi-stakeholder coordination and cooperation, UN.GIFT is carrying out capacity-building activities through the development of joint programmes and specialized guidance material. This will contribute to ensuring that Member States benefit from comprehensive multi-stakeholder joint programmes covering different regions and thematic areas, as well as responding to evidence-based analysis of gaps and priorities.

91. The partnership with civil society organizations has been enhanced in 2010 with the piloting of the small grant facility for non-governmental organizations and providers of services to victims. This has been achieved through a call for proposals to identify community best practices and highlight success stories for replication. This process, steered by a multi-agency board of experts, contributes to the promotion of civil mobilization and civil society organizations' cooperation with governments and businesses.

92. The engagement of the private sector has been fostered by raising awareness about human trafficking, establishing a business leaders' award and developing pilot projects focusing on the travel, tourism and transportation sectors. Information on good practices have been collected and specialized guidance material has been published. The overall aim is to mobilize businesses to identify policy measures and corporate strategies to prevent and combat human trafficking in their supply chains.

93. In order to contribute to the generation of knowledge on human trafficking, UN.GIFT members are expected to agree on a methodology for elaborating a multi-agency compendium drawing on the expertise of international organizations addressing various aspects of the human trafficking phenomenon.

94. UN.GIFT will pilot a virtual knowledge hub that will serve as a clearing house to help Member States and other stakeholders access information, including good practices, guidance material and publications, for the general public and specialized audiences. The virtual hub will include interactive features to help the sharing of content, the promotion of e-networks among practitioners and the generation of knowledge on trafficking in persons.
