

**Working Group D:
DATA ON TRAFFICKING OF HUMAN BEINGS**

BACKGROUND AND JUSTIFICATION

The United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons defines trafficking as the movement of persons to a second location combined with exploitation. The US State Department estimates that around 700,000 women and children are trafficked across international borders yearly, although the number could be significantly higher. This is a reflection of how difficult it is to collect data on trafficked persons. In this regard, governments are faced with numerous challenges: often trafficked persons are moved through an organized network outside the reach of law enforcers; victims are fearful of speaking out; and UN Protocols are not always implemented.

Trafficking amplifies many of the problems linked with irregular migration overall. It poses great challenges to states, governments, institutions and individuals. These challenges arise equally in countries of origin, transit and destination of the trafficked persons. States involved are often in a conflict situation due to lack of border control, unequal treatment of irregular migrants, and migrants' exploitation in countries of destination. This can be further aggravated when trafficking victims are detained in the country of destination or transit. Cohesive or complementary migration legislation, regulation and operational procedures in regions affected by irregular migration and, specifically by trafficking can help defuse such situations. Trafficking is a humanitarian problem requiring global cooperation. For States to formulate effective policies to combat trafficking, it is essential that a cooperative approach to collecting data on trafficking be established.

Global data on trafficking is currently collected by several agencies including the US government, IOM, UNODCCP, and UNESCO. In Western and Eastern Europe IOM, OSCE, Eurostat, and EUROPOL are sources for data on trafficking. Much of the work towards data and information sharing on the trafficking of human beings is currently being carried out at the bilateral and regional levels.

KEY CHALLENGES FOR CONSIDERATION

The following points are some of the goals and challenges for consideration prior to the formulation of policy on international migration data and trafficking.

- Common understanding of terminology use for the collection of data on trafficking at national, regional and global levels.
- Constructing mechanisms for reporting data from police, NGOs, IGOs and other agencies
- Raising awareness about the need for better data and providing training for officials that are collecting trafficking relevant data.
- Identifying criminal networks facilitating trafficking, and enhancing national and international legislation on prosecution.
- Equipping border facilities to record occurrences of trafficking.
- Uncovering data on the trafficking of men and trafficking for different forms of exploitation.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What data is available on trafficking and how is it collected and shared?
2. How can States, NGOs and other agencies coordinate and share information on trafficking?
3. What resources are required to develop states capacities to develop better data on trafficking?
4. What examples are there of “effective practices” with respect to data collection in trafficking?
5. How can we develop a better understanding of trafficking from existing sources of data and develop better indicators of trafficking?