

**THE VIENNA FORUM TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING
13-15 February 2008**

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

**WORKSHOP: BUILDING THE BRIDGES –
COOPERATION BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT**

BACKGROUND

The Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking to be held at United Nations Headquarters in Vienna from 13 to 15 February 2008 will focus on the three overriding themes of vulnerability, impact and action. It will offer plenary sessions and a series of panels and workshops on different aspects of the three themes.

This event is part of the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT). The Global Initiative aims to mobilize state and non-state actors to eradicate human trafficking by i) reducing the vulnerability of potential victims and the demand for exploitation in all its forms; ii) ensuring adequate protection and support to those who do fall victim, and iii) supporting the efficient prosecution of the criminals involved, while respecting the fundamental human rights of all persons.

UN.GIFT is part of a wide partnership by the UN-System and other international and regional organizations (ILO, IOM, OSCE, OHCHR, UNICEF, UNODC). These organizations, which form the UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

This workshop, Building the Bridges – Cooperation Between Civil Society and Law Enforcement, is organized by IOM, in partnership with key stakeholders.

CONTEXT

Trafficking in persons is a cross-cutting problem that requires a multi-stakeholder response which facilitates effective cooperation between different law enforcement agencies as well as between law enforcement agencies and other stakeholders such as NGOs, trade unions and the private sector.

There are a number of challenges which must be met to facilitate cooperation between stakeholders with varying roles and responsibilities. These include:

- Developing a shared understanding by stakeholders of the crime, its impact on trafficked persons, as well as of the current practices in investigation and victim protection, their successes and failures. This helps the various public institutions and NGO actors to

acknowledge their different mandates and interests, clarify their working methods, understand each other position, build trust in sharing a common goal and develop vision and agreement on how to render better support to trafficked persons, while making prosecution more effective.

- Developing in a transparent and accountable manner the specific duties and responsibilities of each agency at each stage of the referral process, as well as devising the mechanism to render operational and effective the co-operation.
- Ensuring that law enforcement and service providers are in a constant dialogue, and work based on mutually agreed terms of cooperation and empower the trafficked person to take informed decisions

It has been the experience of many stakeholders that personal relationships based on trust often play the most important role in enabling effective and open cooperation between different institutions. While this means of cooperation has often brought success, it is not sustainable and does not contribute to the longer term goal of establishing multi-stakeholder systems and structures. This workshop will assess whether structured cooperation between law enforcement agencies is possible, feasible, and/or desirable

OBJECTIVES

This workshop aims to build understanding of the roles of different actors involved in the prevention of human trafficking, identification of trafficking persons and their protection, and the prosecution of traffickers. The workshop also aims to examine the possibility, feasibility, and desirability of structured cooperation between civil society actors and law enforcement agencies, and to discuss possible models of cooperation, including terms, procedures and conditions, that best facilitate coordinated interaction.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

1. A concise statement of recommendations will be elaborated on the possibility, feasibility, and desirability of structured cooperation between civil society actors and law enforcement agencies;
2. A summary of the working group discussions will be prepared and incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum;
3. Networking opportunities between key stakeholders will be enhanced.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The workshop will consist of a single session, which will take place on 15th February, from 0930 until 1230.

This workshop will be lead by five experts, one of whom will be designated as the workshop chair, and another who will assume the role of rapporteur. Each expert will have 10 minutes to address the participants on each of the three themes. Participants will have 25 minutes to ask questions for clarification, or make comments, following each presentation.

Participants will then be divided into 3 or more working groups based on each of the three main themes. One of the session experts will facilitate each of the working groups, which will have 60 minutes during which to develop recommendations relating to each theme. Following the working group sessions, each working group will share its recommendations with all the participants, who will use the remaining time asking questions, making comments, and fine-tuning the recommendations. These recommendations will feed into the final report to issue from the Vienna Forum.

THEMES

During the workshop the following themes/questions will be addressed:

- 1. Structured Cooperation** – is it possible, feasible, and/or desirable?; if yes, what kind of structure – what are the best models, and the necessary terms, procedures, and conditions?; how to develop a shared understanding of the crime.
- 2. Information Sharing** – how can we improve transnational data sharing, and data sharing between key stakeholders, including law enforcement?; what could a harmonized data management system look like?; what are the core data protection guidelines to which all stakeholders should adhere?
- 3. Non-Traditional Stakeholders** – what can and should law enforcement organizations expect from non-traditional anti-trafficking stakeholders?; what can non-traditional anti-trafficking stakeholders expect from law enforcement?.

PARTICIPANTS/SPEAKERS

This workshop is expected to attract approximately 80 stakeholders, including government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, media, academia and international organizations.

Moderator: Maria Grazia Giammarinaro, European Commission

Confirmed Speakers:

- Lance Bonneau, IOM (Bangkok)
- Astrid Ganterer, ODIHR/OSCE
- Paul Holmes, independent expert (UK)
- Betty Pedraza, Espacios de Mujer (Colombia)

WORKING LANGUAGE

This workshop will be conducted in English. There will be no simultaneous interpretation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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