

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

**Vienna, Austria**

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

**Corruption and human trafficking: the grease that facilitates the  
crime**

**BACKGROUND**

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

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 people who at risk could fall prey to traffickers 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 part of UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

The panel is organized by UNODC, with possible input from other Steering Committee members.

**CONTEXT**

Most trafficking in persons would have little chance of success if it were not for the complicity of public, and sometimes private, sector officials. Corruption is the lubricant that often allows victims to be selected, transported and held against their will. Corrupt immigration officers, customs collectors, police and judicial officials, social welfare personal, managers of private transport companies or of ports, among others, all too often play a critical role in traffickers' plans.

**OBJECTIVES**

The panel aims to identify the various links between corruption and the crime and process of trafficking in persons and to offer measures to tackle the corruptive practices identified.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The panel will identify recommendations to tackle corruption linked to trafficking in person. As a follow up to the panel, a brochure will be published based on the panel discussion, addressing the links of corruption and trafficking in persons as well as specifying possible counter measures.

## **STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**

The panel will take place on 14 February, for 1.30 hours. The panel consists of one session, during which four speakers will deliver presentations related to the topic of the panel.

Time will be provided for discussions among panellists and participants. In order to allow for a highly participatory and dynamic session with the aim of adding value to the anti-human trafficking efforts, ample time will be devoted to discussions.

## **THEMES**

During the panel a number of questions will be addressed, including what is corruption, how is it linked to trafficking in persons and what can be done against the problem. In this regard the different stages of trafficking, recruitment, transportation, exploitation and eventually money laundering stage, will be examined, regarding the specific corruption risks at each stage and the different forms of corrupt behaviour. The panel will also address the challenges faced in incorporating anti-corruption in anti-trafficking work.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Approximately 200/250 participants are expected, including government officials, parliamentarians, representatives of the private sector, civil society, academia and international organizations.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

Translation will be provided for all six official UN languages, that is Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Name:** Silke ALBERT

**Division:** Division for Operations, Anti-Human Trafficking Unit

**Organization:** United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**E-mail:** silke.albert@unodc.org

**Panellists:** Prof. Osita Agbu, Nigeria  
Kathy Richards, Australia  
Viorel Ciobanu, Moldova  
Congresswoman Stella Maris Cordoba, Argentina (tbc)

**Moderator:** Silke Albert, UNODC  
**Rapporteur:** Christina Duschl, UNODC