

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

Vienna, Austria

AIDE MEMOIRE

**SPECIAL EVENT
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION:
Identifying and overcoming obstacles
(Thursday, February 14, 14:30-17:30)**

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.

The Forum 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 part of UN.GIFT Steering Committee, are responsible for the organization of the panels and workshops of The Vienna Forum.

The special event, "International cooperation: identifying and overcoming obstacles" is organized by UNODC, as part of its role in promoting the implementation of the United Nations Protocol to prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially women and children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, especially the international cooperation provisions of those instruments.

CONTEXT

The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementary Protocol to prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially women and children, include a number of crucial provisions on law enforcement cooperation, exchange of information, joint investigations and joint use of investigative techniques, as well as provisions on extradition, mutual legal assistance, international cooperation for purposes of confiscation, transfer of criminal proceedings and transfer of sentenced persons.

Implementation of such provisions is essential to the fulfillment of the fundamental purpose of these international instruments: promoting cooperation to prevent and combat transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons, more effectively.

The investigation and prosecution of organized criminal groups involved in trafficking in persons is complex and difficult. Facilitating information exchange between law enforcement authorities and developing effective international judicial cooperation and responses is crucial to success. This special event will bring together experienced law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners involved in the investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking cases to consider specific cases, identify problems areas, share ideas and identify good practice.

OBJECTIVES

In addressing issues of interest to investigators as well as to prosecutors and judges, this event aims at promoting mutual understanding among these practitioners, beyond the "blame culture".

It will examine a variety of approaches to law enforcement and judicial international cooperation, based on experience gained from specific cases and will identify problem areas and appropriate responses which can make cooperation towards investigation and prosecution more effective.

EXPECTED OUTPUTS

A concise statement of key messages will be elaborated and a summary of the discussions will be prepared by the organizers and be incorporated into the overall final report of the Vienna Forum. In addition the key findings will be taken forward to the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime that is to be held in late 2008.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT

The special event will take place on 14th February, 14.30pm-17.30pm, in one session without break.

Two chairpersons and four to six presenters will address issues related to international law enforcement cooperation, as well as international cooperation in criminal matters.

The chairpersons will introduce the topic and the presenters. Each presentation will be for a maximum period of 15 minutes. Time will be allowed after each presentation for questions and comments from the audience. After all the presentations have been completed, an estimated one and a half hours will be available for discussion among panellists and comments/questions from the audience.

THEMES

I: Overcoming obstacles to international cooperation in criminal matters

(1) Extradition

- Avoiding dual criminality problems through adequate criminalization*
- Practical consequences of extradition partially granted or denied*
- Models of extradition at regional level (e.g. European Arrest Warrant)*

(2) Mutual Legal Assistance, including international cooperation for confiscation

- Successes and failures*
- Best practices in mutual legal assistance*
- Importance of cooperation for the effective investigation and prosecution of money laundering related to trafficking in persons cases*

II: Promoting effective law enforcement measures

(1) Cooperation and Information-Sharing

- The use of international liaison officer networks*
- The value of joint investigation teams*
- Coordination mechanisms*

(2) Special investigative techniques

- Appropriate legislation*
- Use and effectiveness*

PARTICIPANTS

The room will have a capacity for 200 to 250 persons. Participants expected include law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners,

academia and international organizations. Participants in the panel "From Protection to Prosecution" held in the morning of the same day are expected to also have a particular interest in the International Cooperation event.

It should be noted that the Steering Group on implementation of decision 3/2 (international cooperation) of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime will be meeting in Vienna in conjunction with the Vienna Forum and that its members will be invited to participate in this event.

WORKING LANGUAGES

The special event will be held in English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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SPECIAL EVENT
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Chairperson / presenters – (as at 14 Jan 2008)

Chairperson:

To be determined (information received on 11 January that AG of Panama not now available)

Approach made (11 January) to Commissioner Mick Keelty, Head of the Australian Federal Police (awaiting response from PM of Australia on 15 January)

Other possibles: Head of Europol; Head of SECI Centre; Rob Wainwright of SOCA (already a speaker) or, if necessary, UNODC (Brian Taylor) to chair?

Rapporteur:

To be determined

Presenters on I (extradition and MLA)

Marjorie BONN, Senior Legal Adviser, International criminal law and EU Law, Ministry of Justice, Netherlands (Valerie) – tbc.

Jian Xueqin, Public Prosecutor, International cooperation Department, Beijing, China – tbc

Virginia Prugh or Thomas Burrows, US Department of Justice – tbc

Gilson Langaro Dipp, Minister and General Coordinator of the Supreme Court, Department of Justice, Brazil -tbc

Presenters on II (Law enforcement cooperation):

Rob Wainwright, Director, International Division, United Kingdom Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) – Presentation on the G 6 anti-trafficking initiative – based on the UK Pentameter operational model. Will highlight the importance of a comprehensive approach and concerted action across a region. (confirmed)

Steve Harvey, Serious Crime Department, Europol – presentation will relate to issues identified from specific case studies. (confirmed)

Australian Federal Police – tbc