



REPUBLIC ÖSTERREICH  
Parlament

**UN.GIFT**  
Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking

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

**Vienna, Austria**

**AIDE MEMOIRE**

**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
12 February 2008**

**BACKGROUND**

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.

In carrying out its mission UN.GIFT will increase knowledge and awareness on human trafficking; promote effective rights-based responses; build capacity of state and non-state actors; and foster partnerships for joint action against human trafficking.

UN.GIFT's philosophy is premised upon the understanding that human trafficking cannot be dealt with by governments, civil society, academia or businesses alone. Cooperation among stakeholders is key for an effective response to this crime.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), acting as the facilitator of the UN.GIFT, is promoting the Initiative by building upon ongoing endeavours by several other members of the UN system, regional organizations and other stakeholders, taking into account their respective areas of expertise, accumulated knowledge and ground-work. UN.GIFT is therefore part of a wide partnership by the UN-System and other

international and regional organizations (ILO, IOM, OSCE, OHCHR, UNICEF and UNODC).

Under the framework of the UN.GIFT, the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking will take place from 13–15 February 2008. The Forum allows for an open environment to raise awareness, build upon existing and forge new partnerships to enable all parties involved to take concrete steps to fight human trafficking, within their spheres of action.

The Forum will be a catalyst for solution-seeking responses and will address the following topics on human trafficking: i) vulnerability: why does human trafficking happen; ii) impact: human and social consequences of human trafficking; iii) action: innovative approaches to solving complex problems.

## **CONTEXT**

In many countries, the anti-trafficking legislative framework is non-existent or not in compliance with international legal instruments. Parliaments and parliamentarians have a very important role to play in the fight against trafficking in persons as they can create the political and legislative environment for the successful development and implementation of anti-trafficking initiatives.

In order to respond to the problem of trafficking in persons, comprehensive national strategies must take into account the need to review and amend, as necessary, the legislative framework within which the response will take shape. This includes various legislative reforms required to bring national legislation into compliance with international standards and ensuring that the offence of trafficking is created in domestic criminal law. It also involves the criminalization of other offences related to trafficking in persons.

As the legislative authority, parliaments are entrusted with the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and any other international instruments related to trafficking in persons.

In addition to ensuring the adequate legislative framework to fight human trafficking, parliamentarians have an important role in adopting national legislation to combat trafficking in persons in accordance with international standards so that the crime of trafficking is precisely defined in national law and detailed guidance is provided as to its various punishable elements. They

also play a role in other prevention, protection of victims, and prosecution efforts, such as raising awareness; promoting national campaigns; ensuring appropriate allocation of funds to anti-human trafficking programmes; promoting inter-agency and international cooperation, when necessary; among other means to effectively counter trafficking in persons.

## **OBJECTIVES**

In a joint effort by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Austrian Parliament and UNODC, the Parliamentary Forum to Fight Human Trafficking aims to bring the parliamentary dimension to the Vienna Forum. It will provide an opportunity for parliamentarians to discuss and share good practices in anti-human trafficking legislative review, among other issues, and elucidate the critical role parliamentarians and parliaments have in national and international efforts towards combating human trafficking.

## **EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

UNODC will build upon its work in developing model legislation to combat trafficking in persons in order to prepare a draft handbook for parliamentarians to be presented and discussed at the Parliamentary Forum. The revised version of the handbook for parliamentarians will be presented at the Inter-Parliamentary Union Statutory Assembly in April 2008, in South Africa.

A report of the proceedings of the Parliamentary Forum will be presented at the Plenary Session of the Vienna Forum. The report will be part of the official proceedings of the Forum and contain recommendations and follow up actions on the discussion topics outlined.

## **STRUCTURE AND CONTENT**

The Parliamentary Forum will include interactive sessions, including a mock trial. The audience will be asked to give feedback to scenarios performed by practitioners. On the basis of the feedback a good practice scenario will be performed.

The discussions will be structured in different panel sessions, highlighting lessons learned and good practices, and allow for open discussion and exchange of experiences among participants.

## **THEMES**

At the Parliamentary Forum, a number of topics will be discussed, including:

- Elements of trafficking in persons: a multidisciplinary response
- Measures to combat trafficking in persons
  - Handbook for parliamentarians
  - Case studies
- An overview of the role of parliamentarians in fighting human trafficking and suggested responses.

## **PARTICIPANTS AND REGISTRATION**

Participants at the Parliamentary Forum must be members of parliament and must be registered participants of the Vienna Forum. Participants must register on-line at the following website: <http://www.ungift.org>.

Between 100 and 150 members of parliament are expected to attend the Parliamentary Forum. Each parliamentarian attending the event is invited to upload a photograph to facilitate the preparation of a security badge. Participants who are not in possession of a digital photograph should nevertheless register on-line and have their photograph taken on site at the Vienna Forum.

## **WORKING LANGUAGE**

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Russian and Spanish. Official documentation will be available in English and French only.

## **DATE**

The Parliamentary Forum will take place on 12 February 2008. Two sessions will be held, one from 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and the other from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

## **VENUE**

The Austrian Parliament will host the Parliamentary Forum in the plenary chamber of the National Council (Lower House of Parliament), located at: Dr. Karl-Renner-Ring 3, A-1017 Vienna, Austria.

## **VISAS**

Participants shall be responsible for obtaining entry visas for Austria.

## **HOTEL ACCOMMODATION**

All participants are urged to book hotel accommodation as soon as possible and may consult the following website to do so on-line:  
<http://www.ungift.org>

The United Nations – as the organizers of the Vienna Forum – shall not be held responsible for booking hotel accommodation or for keeping hotel bookings on behalf of Vienna Forum participants. It is suggested that participants utilize the services of Carlson Wagonlit, which is the recommended accommodation and travel agent of the Vienna Forum.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Requests for further information on the Vienna Forum should be addressed to:

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Fax: +(43) (1) 263-3389 (with reference: UN.GIFT)  
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Requests for further information on the Parliamentary Forum should be addressed to:

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