

Oral statement in connection with the draft resolution A/72/L.1 entitled
"Draft outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General
Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to
Combat Trafficking in Persons"

1. The present statement is made in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of paragraphs 12 and 13 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would declare that:

12. [We] also stress the need to ensure overall organization and coherence in the efforts of the United Nations system to respond to trafficking in persons, especially in ensuring support to Member States. In this regard, while recalling that the Inter Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons was established to foster coordination and cooperation among relevant United Nations system entities and other international organizations involved in combating trafficking in persons, with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as its coordinator, we urge the Secretary-General to continue efforts to strengthen coordination within the United Nations system and to inform Member States thereof through existing reporting channels.

13. [We] recognize the important role played by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons in the United Nations system, and invite it to continue to increase its activities related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action and, to that end, to incorporate aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development relevant to preventing and combating trafficking in persons and to consider how future activities will be coordinated and how the duplication of efforts will be avoided. We encourage the Coordination Group to expand its working group to include entities of the United Nations system that are not currently active in the working group but that have a role in addressing trafficking in persons.

3. With regard to paragraphs 12 and 13, it should be noted that currently there are two (2) Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officers at the P-4 level allocated to the implementation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) core mandates relating to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. These staff resources were approved in the context of the programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013 pursuant to resolution 64/293 adopting the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and perform the following activities:

- One (1) Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer is dedicated to all technical assistance for the implementation of both the Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling protocols as well as the Global Plan of Action; and,
- One (1) Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer dedicated to the preparation of the Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

4. These regular budget staff resources are fully devoted to already mandated programme activities and therefore there are no staff resources available which could be redeployed to perform additional tasks or activities.

5. With regard to paragraphs 12 and 13, UNODC would need to continue the coordination of the expanded Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) network of agencies including substantive support and facilitation of joint policy development, information sharing, advocacy/outreach and coordination activities of ICAT member agencies and development of annual ICAT work plans; preparation and servicing of coordination meetings and calls, including the drafting of documentation and meeting records related thereto; coordination of briefing events, advocacy and reporting; compilation, dissemination and storing of relevant information among member agencies; engagement and supervision of consultants, record-keeping and day-to-day communication with ICAT members and external stakeholders on ICAT.

6. In 2012, an extra-budgetary contribution of \$600,000 allowed UNODC to undertake a series of technical assistance and advocacy activities related to the implementation of ICAT and the Global Plan of Action, including the holding of regular teleconferences and working group meetings to exchange information among the various agencies; the organization of expert group meetings to review relevant issues; the launch of 3 ICAT thematic papers; and the finalization of two additional papers expressing the joint positions of the agencies involved on key issues relating to the Protocol and the Global Plan of Action; as well as advocacy events in Geneva, New York and Vienna on the work of ICAT.

7. Extra-budgetary resources in the amount of \$180,900 would be required to provide for one (1) Programme Officer at P-3 level in the Anti-Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section to enable the continuation of UNODC's coordination function and support implementation of the current resolution. The position would provide the substantive support required for the continuation of the technical assistance activities related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, and the enhanced coordination of the ICAT.

8. These activities would be carried out provided that additional extra budgetary-resources are made available. Should such extra-budgetary resources not be made available, and in accordance with

paragraph 26 of the draft resolution, consultations would need to be undertaken to determine the necessary programmatic changes and resource requirements needed for their implementation.

9. Hence, adoption of draft resolution A/72/L.1 would not entail any additional appropriation under the programme budget for the biennium 2016-2017 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018-2019.