

ROUNDTABLE ON CORRUPTION RELATED TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

*Identifying best practices and exploring draft principles
for combating TIP-related corruption*

AGENDA

27 August 2015

Marco Polo Hotel
Cebu City, the Philippines



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About the OECD

The OECD is a forum in which governments compare and exchange policy experiences, identify good practices in light of emerging challenges, and promote decisions and recommendations to produce better policies for better lives. The OECD's mission is to promote policies that improve economic and social well-being of people around the world.

About the Roundtable on Combating Corruption Related to Trafficking in Persons

The objective of this roundtable is to identify best practices at the national and regional level in combating corruption related to trafficking in persons, as well as to explore draft principles that address these issues jointly. The aim of the principles is to provide reference for countries intending to establish, modify or complement a framework to address TIP-related corruption.

For any questions concerning the content of the meeting or practical arrangements, please contact Ms. Ulrika Bonnier (ulrika.bonnier@oecd.org) and Ms. Anaisa Goncalves (anaisa.goncalves@oecd.org).

AGENDA

27 AUGUST 2015

09:00 – 09:30 Registration and Coffee

09:30 – 09:45 Welcoming Remarks and Opening Address

Mr. David M. Luna

Senior Director, National Security and Diplomacy, INL, U.S. Department of State

09:45-10:00 **Presentation of the OECD Principles on Combatting Corruption Related to Trafficking in Persons**

Trafficking in persons is one of the most lucrative forms of organised crime. Similarly to illicit trade in general, organised trafficking requires systematic corruption. However, there is to date no international instrument that comprehensively focuses on the important link between corruption and trafficking in persons and that aims at addressing both. The approach of addressing these two issues jointly, coupled with better cross-border cooperation, better enforcement and an increased focus on combatting corruption is key to effectively curb trafficking in persons. This introductory presentation will introduce the OECD's work in this area, and give an overview of the OECD Principles on Combatting Corruption Related to Trafficking in Persons.

MODERATOR

- Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, Republic of the Philippines.

SPEAKER

- Ulrika Bonnier, OECD.

10:00 – 11:15 **Session 1: Promoting an efficient response to trafficking in persons-related corruption: Jointly addressing and investigating trafficking in persons and corruption coupled with increased national, regional and international cooperation**

OBJECTIVES

Organised trafficking requires systemic corruption. However, few strategies in place jointly address trafficking in persons and corruption. The first part of this session is devoted to discussing country and regional experiences in jointly addressing corruption and trafficking in persons. Addressing these issues jointly requires that an investigation into trafficking in persons is accompanied with investigations into corruption and finances of suspects, that information and resources are shared among relevant actors, that coordination and cooperation between agencies is in place. How has this been done, which initiatives have been successful, and where is there room for improvement? What are the lessons learned in relation to initiatives in at-risk sectors and industries?

The second part of this session will focus on international cooperation and agreements. Firstly, due to its transnational nature – with 66% of detected victims being trafficked across border – the criminal justice responses to trafficking in persons need to be transnational. However, for

now, they generally only operate within national borders. How can this be approved? What is needed in order to make processes of mutual legal assistance that allows for international identification, sequestration and seizure of assets accrued by traffickers available, and how can the procedure of mutual legal assistance be simplified, prioritised, and accelerated? What are the lessons learned in regional cooperation, and what can be improved at an international level to combat trafficking in persons and corruption?

MODERATOR

- Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, Republic of the Philippines.

SPEAKERS

- Ms. Darlene Pajarito, The Philippines' Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking and Ministry of Justice.
- Mr. Rhymie Bin Mohd Ramli, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Department of Labour of Peninsular Malaysia.
- Prof. Leslie Holmes, University of Melbourne, Australia.

11:15 – 11:30 Coffee Break

Coffee provided in conference room

11:30 – 12:45 **Session 2: The need for transparency and an integrity framework for public officials at risk**

OBJECTIVES

The conduct of the international peacekeepers, civilian police, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations' staff and diplomatic personnel has raised serious concerns in relation to trafficking in persons and corruption. A sound integrity framework is therefore key in the prevention of trafficking in persons-related corruption, with specific rules/standards of behaviour – such as guidelines or codes of conduct – in place with respect to corruption and trafficking for public officials at risk. Moreover, in order to correctly identify and deal with trafficking in persons cases, it is essential that key officials receive training. This session will focus on lessons learned in establishing rules/standards on behaviour of public officials in respect to corruption and trafficking, as well as the promotion of a wider framework for ensuring the integrity of public officials, including: asset disclosure regime; conflict of interest legislation; whistleblower protection in the case someone exposes misconduct and wants to report dishonest or illegal activity. It will also deal with the issue of duly lifting immunity from prosecution of public officials to allow for effective investigation, prosecution and adjudication of corruption and trafficking in persons-related offences. What are the lessons learned, and what could be improved? Are there any specific measures that could be introduced in order to address trafficking in persons-related corruption? Is it enough to amend existing rules or codes of conduct or is there a need for a standalone code that addresses integrity issues in relation to trafficking in persons? In terms of whistleblower protection, what mechanisms have been helpful in assisting public officials or private sector employees that witness corrupt behaviour in relation to trafficking in persons to provide information about these activities?

A second issue that is of utmost importance is transparency. Firstly, this relates to transparency of the activities performed by staff in at-risk sectors. Secondly, this relates to the recruitment process of key officials, in particular those employed in anti-corruption or anti-trafficking units, prosecutors and judicial officials. In addition to being transparent, the recruitment process has to be competitive and subject to independent scrutiny. How has this been ensured in countries today? Where and how could improvements be made?

MODERATOR

- Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, Republic of the Philippines.

SPEAKERS

- Mr. Paul Buckley, UN-ACT.
- Ms. Klara Skrivankova, Anti-Slavery International.
- Dr. Bashir Uddin, Kobe University, Japan.

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch*Buffé lunch served at the Grand Balcony*

14:00 – 15:15**Session 3: Awareness-Raising for Public Officials and the General Public and Prevention Measures for Potential Victims of Trafficking**

OBJECTIVES

Awareness raising for both the general public as well as public officials is essential in the fight against trafficking in persons and trafficking in persons-related corruption. This session will discuss lessons learned and highlight best practices in measures to promote public awareness regarding the existence, causes, and gravity of trafficking in persons and the promotion of active participation of individuals and groups outside the public sector in the prevention of and the fight against trafficking in persons-related corruption. Similar issues will be discussed for the public sector, where the focus is on specific awareness raising measures that highlight vulnerabilities, responsibilities, risks, and draw attention to how corrupt behaviour could facilitate the crime of trafficking in persons are essential to understand the links and forms of trafficking.

Another important building block in an effective response against trafficking in persons is preventive measures for potential victims of trafficking. One example includes giving citizens access to free, confidential counselling about corruption and trafficking before and after they have undertaken a migration journey in order to make them aware of their rights and capable of looking for help. What other measures have been found to be successful? Where is there room for improvement?

MODERATOR

- Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, Republic of the Philippines.

SPEAKERS

- Mr. Robert L. Larga, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.
- Ms. Rebecca Miller, Immigration New Zealand.
- Mr. Matt Parker, The Exodus Road.

15:15 – 15:45 Coffee Break*Coffee provided in conference room*

15:45 –17:00

Session 4: Improvement of Data Collection and the Need for a Systematic Use of Information Collected in Relation to Trafficking in Persons-Related Corruption

OBJECTIVES

To date, most countries are not systematically collecting and analysing data on investigations or prosecutions of public officials relating to trafficking in persons and corruption. There are many reasons for the scarcity of data. Among the most important reasons for this are the victims' reluctance to report or testify for fear of reprisals; lack of harmonisation among existing data sources; and the opposition of some countries and agencies to share data. This session will deal with the question of what can be done to address these problems. How can the collection of data and information be improved in order to get a better insight into the problem of trafficking in persons and corruption and to be able to implement targeted responses based on facts? How can the data collection and aggregation at the regional level be improved?

In addition to improve the collection of data and information, there is also room to use the information on corruption provided by victims and NGOs more systematically. This session will provide an opportunity to highlight best practices and lessons learned from both a sectoral, national, and regional perspective on data collection and utilization.

MODERATOR

- Atty. Paul Elmer Clemente, Deputy Ombudsman for the Visayas, Republic of the Philippines.

SPEAKERS

- Ms. Tejal Jesrani, UNODC.
- Mr. Steve Galster, Freeland Foundation.
- Mr. Mark Taylor, Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

17:00 – 17:15 **Closing Address**

Mr. Janos Bertok
Head of the Public Sector Integrity Division, OECD

www.oecd.org/corruption/ethics/

