



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20 February 2017

Excellency,

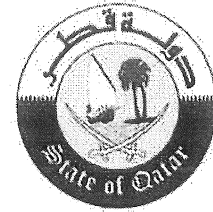
I am pleased to forward a letter from the co-facilitators appointed to consult with Member States on the preparations for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, H.E. Mrs. Catherine Boura, Permanent Representative of Greece and H.E. Ms. Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar, conveying a Zero Draft of the modalities resolution for the high-level meeting, and inviting Member States to the first round of informal meetings on 23 February 2017.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Thomson', written in a cursive style.

Peter Thomson

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



13 February 2017

Excellency,

As indicated in the letter of the President of the General Assembly dated 10 January 2017, we have been appointed as co-facilitators to consult with Member States on the preparations for the high-level meeting to appraise the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 70/179.

In July 2010, the General Assembly adopted by consensus the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293). In May 2013, the General Assembly conducted the first high-level appraisal of the Global Plan. Subsequently, the General Assembly, in its resolutions 68/192 and 70/179, agreed on the need to conduct subsequent appraisals of the Plan and thus decided to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate, to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments.

To facilitate more efficient discussions among Member States, we have prepared a first Zero Draft of a possible modalities resolution for the organization of the high-level meeting, based on the well-received original modalities resolution agreed upon by the General Assembly for its first appraisal of the Global Plan (67/260). As the General Assembly has subsequently held numerous high-level meetings, we have also included, in our Zero Draft, updated language and new paragraphs based on the agreed modalities of the more recent high-level meetings, to ensure consistency with current practices. The Zero Draft is attached (sources of the additional language are indicated).

You will notice that in our draft, we have included for the consideration of Member States a possible outcome for the appraisal process. Member States may wish to consider if it would be useful to have a concrete outcome document from the high-level meeting.

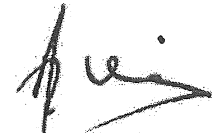
We will hold the first round of informals **on 23 February 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Conference Room 2**. We encourage all Member States to be prepared to engage substantively on the Zero Draft, including the question as to a possible outcome for the high-level meeting.

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

As the President of the General Assembly has indicated, it is hoped that the high-level meeting will help raise additional support for the UN Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, one of the most important aspects of the Global Plan of Action. The Trust Fund provides humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Pledges to the Trust Fund will be acknowledged during the high-level meeting. Member States wishing to make a pledge to the Trust Fund in advance of or during the high-level meeting are requested to contact Mr. Stavros Christodoulidis of the Permanent Mission of Greece (+1 (917) 622-4608; christodoulidis.stavros@mfa.gr) or Ms. Al-Anoud Qassim Al-Temimi of the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar (+1 (646) 287-7860; atemimi@mofa.gov.qa).

We look forward to engaging with all delegations on this most important subject and count on your participation at the highest possible level.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.



Catherine Boura
Permanent Representative of Greece
to the United Nations



Alya Ahmed Saif Al-Thani
Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar
to the United Nations

Modalities, format and organization 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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 70/179 of 17 December 2015, in which it recalled the holding of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly during its sixty-seventh session, from 13 to 15 May 2013 to appraise the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons¹, and its decision to appraise on a four-year basis starting at its seventy-second session, the progress achieved in the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, in order to assess achievements, gaps and challenges, including in the implementation of the relevant legal instruments, and therefore decided to convene, within existing resources, a high-level meeting of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, in October 2017, immediately after the general debate, *(based on PP1, A/Res/67/260 and OP4, A/Res/70/179)*

Recalling also its resolution 64/293 of 30 July 2010, by which it adopted the Global Plan of Action, *(PP2, A/Res/67/260)*

Recalling further its resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, by which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime² and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime³, *(PP3, A/Res/67/260)*

1. *Decides* that the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons will be held from Monday, 2 October to Tuesday, 3 October 2017, and will consist of an opening plenary meeting on 2 October from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., plenary meetings on 2 October from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and on 3 October from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and a closing plenary meeting after the list of speakers has been exhausted, as well as two consecutive interactive panel discussions on 2 October in the afternoon; *(based on OP1, A/Res/67/260)*

2. *Also decides* that the opening plenary meeting will feature statements by the President of the 72nd Session of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime as well as an eminent person actively engaged in the fight against trafficking in persons and a

¹ Resolution 64/293.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

representative from civil society, at least one of whom should be a survivor of human trafficking; both of whom are to be identified by the President of the Assembly; *(based on OP2, A/Res/67/260)*

3. *Further decides* that the organizational arrangements for the interactive panel discussions to take place on Monday, 2 October 2017, in the afternoon, each chaired by a Member State at the invitation of the President of 71st Session of the General Assembly, after consultations with regional groups, will be as follows: *(based on OP3, A/Res/67/260)*

(a) Interactive panel discussion 1, which will take place from 3 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., will address the theme “The Global Plan of Action and the Sustainable Development Goals: implementing SDGs 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2”;

(b) Interactive panel discussion 2, which will take place from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., will address the theme “The Global Plan of Action and protection of and assistance to victims, including through the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children”;

(c) The Chairs of the interactive panel discussions will present summaries of the discussions at the closing plenary meeting, followed by final remarks by the President of the General Assembly; *(OP3(c), A/Res/67/260)*

(d) In order to promote interactive and substantive discussions, participation in each panel discussion will include Member States, observers, representatives of United Nations organizations and entities, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media; *(OP3(d), A/Res/67/260)*

4. *Invites* Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the General Assembly to be represented at the highest possible level; *(OP2, A/Res/70/290)*

5. *Encourages* Member States to consider including in their delegations to the high-level meeting representatives of civil society active in combating trafficking in persons, survivors of trafficking in persons and representatives of the private sector; *(based on OP6, A/Res/67/260)*

6. *Invites* all relevant United Nations system entities, including programmes, funds, specialized agencies and regional commissions, as well as relevant intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations, to participate in the high-level meeting; *(based on OP7, A/Res/67/260 and OP6, A/Res/70/297)*

7. *Also invites* interested representatives of non-governmental organizations that are in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to register with the

Secretariat in order to participate in the high-level meeting; (*based on OP8, A/Res/67/260 and OP6(a), A/71/L.58*)

8. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventieth session to draw up a list of other relevant representatives of relevant non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector who may attend the high-level meeting and participate in the interactive round tables, taking into account the principles of transparency and of equitable geographical representation, and with due regard to the meaningful participation of women, and to submit the list to Member States for their consideration on a non-objection basis⁴; (*based on OP6, 70/290*)

9. *Also requests* the President of the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, as part of the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, to organize, no later than July 2017, and to preside over, a one-day informal interactive multi-stakeholder hearing, attended by representatives of Member States, observer States and intergovernmental organizations and entities that have observer status with the Assembly, as well as by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, invited civil society organizations and the private sector, and requests the President to prepare a summary of the hearing; (*based on OP7, A/Res/70/290*)

10. [Possible outcome document];

11. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with Member States, to finalize the organizational arrangements for the meetings, taking into account the duration of the meetings, the identification of the eminent person and the representative from civil society to speak at the opening plenary meeting and the identification of Chairs for the interactive panel discussions, bearing in mind the level of representation as well as equitable geographical representation; (*based on OP10, A/Res/67/260*)

12. *Encourages* Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector entities and other relevant stakeholders to consider supporting the participation of representatives from developing countries, including representatives of non-governmental organizations from those countries, in order to ensure the broadest possible participation, and requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary measures in this regard; (*OP11, A/Res/67/260*)

⁴ The list of proposed as well as final names will be brought to the attention of the General Assembly. Where a name is objected to, the objecting Member State will, on a voluntary basis, make known to the Office of the President of the General Assembly the general basis of its objections and the Office will share any information received with any Member State upon its request.

13. *Decides* that the proceedings of the high-level meeting shall be webcast;
(OP12, A/Res/67/260)

14. *Encourages* Member States and other stakeholders to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which was established by the Global Plan of Action.
(OP13, A/Res/67/260)