REGIONAL CONFERENCE

„Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe – Combating Abuse of the Internet and Strengthening Cross-border Intelligence Sharing”

Project „Improving Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons in South Eastern Europe with a Focus on Moldova” implemented by UNODC in collaboration with Moldova’s Permanent Secretariat of the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings”

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CONCLUSIONS

Based on presentations of the panelists and topical discussions at the conference the following recommendations are adopted:

- Recognize human trafficking as a phenomenon that is one of the worst and gravest crime of our times, which takes various forms and evolves in parallel with globalization and technological revolution;
- Acknowledge that effective and efficient combating of human trafficking requires joining of efforts on national, regional and international levels with the aim to curb the abuse of information technology;
- Encourage effective use of criminal justice organizations and institutions on a global, EU and regional level for efficient cooperation and intelligence sharing, and this conference could serve as an example of good practice for enhancement of cooperation and collaboration;
- Reaffirm that continuous intelligence and data analysis, sharing of best practices, and the coordinated responses of law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary is of utmost importance for evidence-based and strategic action;
- Participants recognize the UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons as a valuable global source of data to identify trends and patterns, and invite all states to provide reliable and segregated data to the report;
- Universal ratification of UNTOC & TIP Protocol, as well as Council of Europe Convention, and to the extent possible EU legislation, is perceived as a precondition for efficient combating trafficking in persons, in particular concerning mutual legal assistance and use of special investigative techniques;
- Protection of victims of human trafficking, in particular through due respect to gender perspective, strong child protection and Human Rights Based Approach with an emphasis to a right to effective remedy should be placed at the heart of all interventions of law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary;
Recognizing a need for constant and specialized training of law enforcement, prosecution and judiciary professionals, especially in use of new technologies as evidence including through cross-border proactive investigations and intelligence sharing;

Necessity of addressing demand in the destination countries, and in parallel addressing the root causes for human trafficking and protection and compensation for victims is essential for comprehensive fight against human trafficking;

Acknowledge importance of prevention efforts through raising awareness for the society among vulnerable groups, including by education of adults and partnership with the private sector, especially with internet and mobile phone providers;