

Committee – UNHRC

Country – France

Agenda for the event - Protecting victims of human trafficking in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Combatting human trafficking is one of France's priorities for protecting and promoting human rights and fighting against organized crime.

At a national level, an interministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against human trafficking (MIPROF) was created in January 2013, with the aim of providing greater protection for trafficking victims.

In May 2014, the government adopted a national action plan against human trafficking with three priorities: the protection of victims, dismantling networks linked to trafficking, and implementing a fully-fledged public policy on this issue. In accordance with law n° 2016-444 of 13 April 2016 which seeks to reinforce the fight against the system of prostitution and to support prostitutes, funds are allocated to help prevent prostitution and to provide social and professional support to victims of prostitution and of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation.

On 18 October 2019, France announced the adoption of a second national action plan against human trafficking, process led by the MIPROF (Interministerial mission for the protection of women against violence and the fight against human trafficking), working closely with associations. This plan reaffirms the French government's commitment to reinforcing the fight against human trafficking on the basis of 45 precise measures. The plan wishes to place the subject of human trafficking at the forefront of the public debate, and to increase awareness amongst young people to the risks of exploitation; define a strategy to identify victims of human trafficking to ensure their protection and effective care; guarantee an unconditional protection to minors victims of trafficking; intensify the dismantling

of criminal networks; coordinate public action at national and local level and finally, reinforce the international cooperation.

Internationally, France is working actively to universalize and effectively implement the Additional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC, known as the “Palermo Convention”), which aims to prevent, suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children. This Protocol is the only universal legally-binding instrument for combatting human trafficking. It asks the States to establish trafficking as a criminal offence, and contains provisions on prevention and the protection of victims and sets out international cooperation mechanisms in the areas of prosecution and suppression.

Subsequent to this legal instrument, in 2010, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted a Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (resolution 64/293), a soft law instrument which complements and promotes the effective application of the Additional Protocol. In 2013, the General Assembly of the United Nations held a high-level meeting to assess the Global Plan of Action. Member States also proclaimed 30 July to be the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

France also supports the efforts deployed by the United Nations through the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN. GIFT), launched in 2007, which brings together international organizations involved in combating human trafficking in the interests of greater coordination and mutual reinforcement of their action. At the General Assembly of the United Nations, in 2009, 2012 and 2013, France supported resolutions on improving the coordination of actions against human trafficking and its other resolutions on human trafficking. It also supported in 2012 and 2014 the resolution on “Trafficking in women and girls” (resolution 69/149) and the resolution on “Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade” of 2013 and 2014 (resolution 69/19).