



# Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

Distr.: General  
12 August 2021

Original: English

## Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants

Vienna, 14 and 15 October 2021

### Annotated provisional agenda

#### Provisional agenda

1. Organizational matters:
  - (a) Opening of the meeting;
  - (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
2. Analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants.
3. How to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants.
4. Other matters.
5. Adoption of the report.

#### Annotations

##### 1. Organizational matters:

##### (a) Opening of the meeting

The eighth meeting of the Working Group on Smuggling of Migrants will be opened on Thursday, 14 October 2021, at 11 a.m. In view of recent developments relating to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the meeting will be held in a hybrid format (in person and online). Further information on the format will be made available on the web page of the meeting.<sup>1</sup>

##### (b) Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

In its resolution 7/1, entitled “Strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime decided, inter alia, that the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants would be a constant element of the Conference, forwarding its reports and recommendations to the Conference, and encouraged the Working Group to consider meeting on an annual basis, as needed, and to hold its meetings consecutively with

<sup>1</sup> [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-the-smuggling-of-migrants-2021.html](http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/working-group-on-the-smuggling-of-migrants-2021.html).



other working groups of the Conference, in order to ensure the effective use of resources.

On 11 September 2020, the extended Bureau of the Conference agreed, by means of silence procedure, on the meeting plan for 2021. On 23 April 2021, the extended Bureau also agreed, by means of silence procedure, on the dates for the eighth meeting of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants, namely, 14 and 15 October 2021, and on the substantive topics for that meeting. On 11 August 2021, the extended Bureau agreed to hold the meeting in a hybrid format.

The proposed organization of work (see annex) was prepared in accordance with Conference resolution 7/1, in order to enable the Working Group to perform its mandated functions within the time and according to the conference services available to it. The resources available to the Working Group will permit the holding of four plenary meetings over two days, with interpretation into the six official languages of the United Nations.

*Possible changes in view of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic*

In the light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is difficult to predict the impact of possible health and safety measures, including travel restrictions, on the meeting of the Working Group. The Secretariat will continue to monitor the situation closely and, subject to the approval of the extended Bureau, will provide timely updates if any further changes or measures are required. Delegations are therefore advised to regularly consult the web page of the eighth meeting of the Working Group.

**2. Analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants**

For a focused discussion under agenda item 2, the Working Group may wish to share experiences on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the related restrictions on movement and the reduced availability of regular migration channels on the smuggling of migrants. In that context, the Working Group may also wish to discuss sustained drivers of migration, including socioeconomic crises, conflict, humanitarian crises, political instability, turmoil and/or persecution. The Working Group may further wish to examine the various risks faced by people using irregular pathways of migration, including abuse, violence and exploitation.

The Working Group may wish to share information regarding the adjustment by smugglers of their *modi operandi* in response to policies to restrict movement that were put in place to contain the COVID-19 pandemic and regarding national measures enacted to reduce demand for smuggling services, including policies to regulate safe migration.

For its consideration of agenda item 2, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

**Documentation**

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat containing analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants (CTOC/COP/WG.7/2021/2)

**3. How to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants**

Under agenda item 3, the Working Group may wish to discuss measures to develop and share expertise and specialized experience on prosecuting the smuggling of migrants. The Working Group may also wish to discuss strategies to identify, investigate and prosecute leading figures in organized criminal networks engaged in the smuggling of migrants, including through international cooperation and the collaboration of prosecutors along migration routes.

The Working Group may also wish to discuss measures to target the financial core of the crime and to share experiences on addressing corruption facilitating irregular migration. Finally, the Working Group may wish to showcase efforts regarding the non-criminalization and non-prosecution of migrants for having been the object of smuggling of migrants.

For its consideration of agenda item 3, the Working Group will have before it a background paper prepared by the Secretariat.

#### **Documentation**

Background paper prepared by the Secretariat on how to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants (CTOC/COP/WG.7/2021/3)

#### **4. Other matters**

The Working Group will have before it a thematic compendium prepared by the Secretariat covering all past background papers of the Working Group since its first meeting. The compendium is thematically clustered and contains brief summaries of specific topics, related issues and available knowledge, with a view to facilitating related and future discussions of the Working Group at its meetings, reducing duplication and providing experts with quick access to existing and compiled guidance.

#### **Documentation**

Thematic compendium of background papers of the Working Group on the Smuggling of Migrants since its first meeting, prepared by the Secretariat ([CTOC/COP/WG.7/2021/4](#))

#### **5. Adoption of the report**

The Working Group is expected to adopt a report on its meeting, the draft of which will be prepared by the Secretariat.

## Annex

### Proposed organization of work

<i>Date and time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
<b>Thursday, 14 October</b>		
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
	1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda and organization of work
	2	Analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants
3–5 p.m.	2	Analysis of the impact that the availability of regular channels of migration has on reducing demand for the smuggling of migrants ( <i>continued</i> )
	3	How to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants
<b>Friday, 15 October</b>		
11 a.m.–1 p.m.	3	How to strengthen the capacity to prosecute cases of smuggling of migrants ( <i>continued</i> )
3–5 p.m.	4	Other matters
	5	Adoption of the report