



# THE INTER-AGENCY COORDINATION GROUP AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS—ICAT

The Interagency Coordination Group Against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) is the lead policy forum of the United Nations, mandated by the General Assembly, to improve coordination among United Nations agencies and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection and support for victims of trafficking.

With 25 member organizations and partner international organizations, ICAT aspires to be a model of effective multilateralism and coordination across the United Nations system and beyond.

## WHAT DOES ICAT OFFER?

Further to General Assembly resolution 61/180, ICAT is a United Nations-system platform to increase inter-agency coordination against trafficking in persons, to create space for the exchange of information on anti-trafficking activities and expertise, and to contribute to the efficient use of resources amongst its membership.

As a global platform for progressive policy development, ICAT has two distinct, yet complementary advantages:

1. A demonstrated capacity to facilitate policy coherence and a common human rights-based and gender-responsive approach across the United Nations system and beyond to preventing and combating trafficking in persons;

2. The collective relevance of ICAT members in aiding States, civil society and practitioners in enhancing their responses to trafficking in persons and in translating priorities into action.

UNODC is the Permanent Coordinator of ICAT. The Group has a rotating chairing arrangement among its extensive membership. In 2019, ICAT had its first co-chairing term, with UN Women and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) as co-chairs, innovatively combining the resources and expertise of a United Nations entity and a regional organization.



## MEMBERSHIP

ICAT is now composed of 25 entities, both across the United Nations system and regional organizations with a relevant anti-trafficking mandate. ICAT substantive policy and expert exchange is done through the coordination of the ICAT Working Group.

### MEMBERS

- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)
- Department of Political Affairs (DPA)
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
- UN Women
- The World Bank

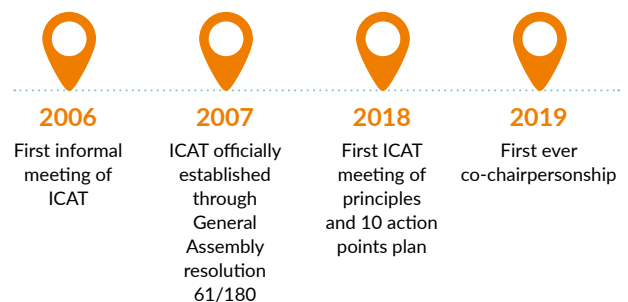
### THE ICAT WORKING GROUP

- Council of Europe
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
- UN Women

### PARTNERS

- Council of Europe
- United Nations Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children

### TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS





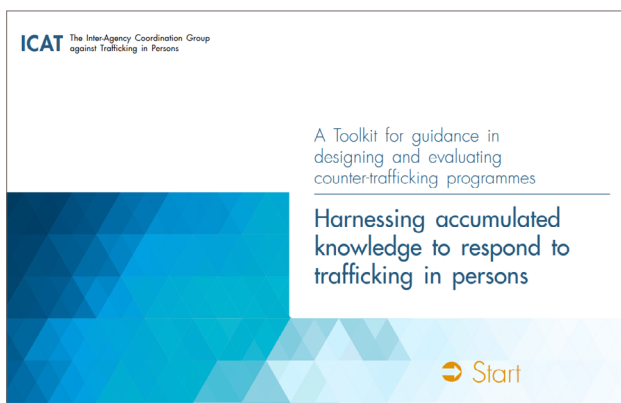
## TOOLS AND POLICY BRIEFS

Over the years, ICAT has produced multiple concise policy briefs, seeking to provide a “one UN” approach to trafficking topics such as:

- Human trafficking and technology
- Trafficking in children
- The role of sustainable development goals in combating trafficking in persons
- The gender dimension of human trafficking
- Trafficking in persons and refugee status
- Trafficking in persons in humanitarian crises
- What is the difference between trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants



The **ICAT Toolkit to design counter-trafficking programmes** provides a set of practical programming tools collectively agreed upon by United Nations agencies to inform both their work and counter-trafficking responses at the country level.



## A “ONE UN” RESPONSE TO TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS: FIRST ICAT PRINCIPALS MEETING

In response to a mandate in General Assembly resolution 72/195, the Executive Director of UNODC convened the first meeting of ICAT at the level of heads of the United Nations and other international and regional organizations, which took place in London on 2 May 2018. This has generated a number of practical outcomes.



Ten decisions of strategic and procedural importance were adopted at the meeting, giving ICAT a solid foundation for its continued development into a robust inter-agency mechanism, and confirming the commitment of the United Nations system to advance the global anti-trafficking agenda. As a result, new impetus was given to addressing critical trafficking issues with one voice and contributing to key policy developments at the global level.

Read more about the meeting [here](#).

## FOSTERING MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ACTION

ICAT regularly engages with a broad range of stakeholders to facilitate policy developments among Member States and practitioners to address persistent and emerging forms of trafficking. In September 2019, on the margins of the seventy-fourth General Assembly in New York, ICAT organized a high-level briefing for Member States and a debate for anti-trafficking practitioners to present the latest ICAT initiatives and policy recommendations on a number of thematic aspects including technology, supply chains and countering the impunity of traffickers. The importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships was discussed and highlighted as an essential means to combat trafficking in persons.



By building upon its extensive and multipronged expertise, ICAT offers comprehensive policy guidance to States and practitioners, and engages in practical initiatives to promote coordinated responses against persistent and emerging forms of trafficking. Below are some of the current priority initiatives.

## TECHNOLOGY

The ICAT issue brief on technology published on 30 July 2019 provides recommendations for States and practitioners that have been widely disseminated, including to: the Interpol network of 123 specialized anti-trafficking law enforcement officers; at least 200 state officials in multiple geographic locations; 57 national anti-trafficking rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms; over 100 civil society representatives and academia. The recommendations of ICAT on the topic have triggered policy discussions and action by global civil society actors and private sector entities in multiple countries

the purpose of forced labour, but also in other types of exploitation, as reflected in a number of Security Council resolutions. Following the establishment of a task force entitled “Development of Joint Approach in Combating Trafficking of Human Beings in Supply Chain” under the United Nations High-Level Committee on Management, the OSCE as 2019 co-chair of ICAT recently launched an initiative to work with the United Nations procurement network in support of these efforts and enhance measures to mitigate the risk of trafficking in persons in supply chains through sustainable procurement.

## SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CHAINS



United Nations agencies, whether they operate in conflict zones or not, need to minimize the risk that their vendors or suppliers might be engaging in human trafficking for

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The 25 member entities that currently belong to ICAT have pooled their expertise and comparative advantage, with a view to offering better instruments and advice on countering trafficking in persons. ICAT member organizations have deepened their engagement, and the footprint of ICAT is increasingly visible at the national, regional and global levels.

ICAT is developing further tools on issues such as responsible business and supply chains, ending the impunity of traffickers (addressing the relatively low number of prosecutions and convictions worldwide) and the gender dimension of trafficking. This will also include further contributions to United Nations intergovernmental processes, such as the Human Rights Council sessions, the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, and to the ongoing finalization of the CEDAW General Recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration.

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