## ACRONYMS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COE</td>
<td>COUNCIL OF EUROPE</td>
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<tr>
<td>CBSS</td>
<td>COUNCIL OF THE BALTIC SEA STATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>CTED</td>
<td>COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE</td>
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<td>DPO</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF PEACE OPERATIONS</td>
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<td>DPPA</td>
<td>DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AND PEACEBUILDING AFFAIRS</td>
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<td>ICMPD</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR MIGRATION POLICY DEVELOPMENT</td>
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<td>ICAO</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION</td>
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<td>INTERPOL</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL POLICE ORGANIZATION</td>
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<td>ILO</td>
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<td>INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION</td>
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<td>ITU</td>
<td>INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION</td>
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<td>OHCHR</td>
<td>OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</td>
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<td>OSRSG-SVC</td>
<td>OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT</td>
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<td>OSRSG-VAC</td>
<td>OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN</td>
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<td>OSCE</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE</td>
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<td>OAS</td>
<td>ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES</td>
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<tr>
<td>SR ON CFS</td>
<td>UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY, INCLUDING ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES</td>
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<td>SR ON TIP</td>
<td>UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, ESPECIALLY WOMEN AND CHILDREN</td>
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<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN’S FUND</td>
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<td>UNDP</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM</td>
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<td>UNESCO</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION</td>
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<td>UN WOMEN</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN</td>
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<td>UNHCR</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES</td>
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<td>UNICRI</td>
<td>UNITED NATIONS INTERREGIONAL CRIME AND JUSTICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE</td>
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FOREWORD

Trafficking in persons persists in our societies despite our collective efforts to curtail it. We need to enhance and innovate in our responses to prevent and combat this crime, as well as protect and assist its victims. Today, partnerships are needed more than ever.

In 2021, ICAT activities centred around implementation of the ICAT Plan of Action agreed at the 2nd Principals meeting in December 2020. Faced with an unprecedented global health crisis in the COVID-19 pandemic, ICAT continued to successfully adapt its working modalities to the new plan and undertake technical and coordination meetings, advocacy events, and consultations, maximizing the use of available technologies.

Key milestones included: engagement of victims and survivors of trafficking; the promotion of sustainable procurement to mitigate risks of trafficking in global supply chains, including in the UN’s own procurement practices; the development and implementation of an outreach strategy to country-level stakeholders; and multi-agency inputs and support to UN processes such as the quadrennial appraisal of the UN General Assembly’s Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

In 2021, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict joined ICAT as full members and the UN Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery including its Causes and Consequences as a partner, bringing the membership of the coordination mechanism to a total of 30 entities and over 60 human trafficking focal points.

Today, ICAT is a well-recognized standard-setting policy forum on trafficking in persons, with Member States increasingly seeking its guidance on anti-trafficking issues. We expect ICAT’s work to continue growing in the coming years and we commit, as UNODC, to continue facilitating ICAT’s increasing productivity and membership expansion, especially in underrepresented regions.

I wish to thank the outgoing ICAT co-Chair, UNHCR, for its dedicated resources and efforts in successfully steering the ICAT Group together with UNODC in 2021, and look forward to UNHCR’s continued engagement in 2022. I am also grateful to the United Kingdom for their 2021 funding allowing the advancement of specific ICAT priorities during the year.

Looking to the year ahead, UNODC is pleased to continue to co-chair ICAT, together with ICMPD, and to work closely with the membership to move forward the important work initiated in 2021.

John Brandolino, Director of the Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
WHO WE ARE

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking of Persons (ICAT) is the United Nations’ lead policy forum mandated by UN General Assembly to improve coordination among UN agencies and other relevant international organizations and facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons. ICAT’s extensive membership currently includes 27 member entities and 3 partners across the United Nations and relevant regional organizations with a strong anti-trafficking mandate.

ICAT’s main objectives are centred on:

- Facilitating internal policy coherence and a one-UN approach across the UN system and relevant regional organizations in addressing trafficking in person by setting clear priorities and a uniform standard, sharing expertise and best practices.
- Aiding States, civil society, and practitioners in translating priorities into action by offering the right tools and encouraging and mobilizing multi-stakeholder coherent efforts.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is ICAT’s Permanent Coordinator and Secretariat. ICAT has a chairpersonship which periodically rotates amongst its extensive membership. In 2021, ICAT was co-chaired by UNODC and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

MEMBERS

- Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS)
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
- Department of Peace Operations (DPO)
- Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
- International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD)
- International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
- International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Organization for Migration (IOM)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)
- Organization of American States (OAS)
- United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)
- United Nations Joint Program 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

PARTNERS

▪ Council of Europe
▪ UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children
▪ UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences
A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS, UNHCR & UNODC

In 2021, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime successfully led the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) as co-Chairs through a challenging, yet very productive year.

The COVID-19 pandemic continued exacerbating the vulnerabilities of many people to abuse and trafficking. In response to these challenges, under the co-Chairpersonship of UNHCR and UNODC, ICAT enabled vital multi-stakeholder collaboration and partnership to prevent and address trafficking in persons and boost protection and support of victims. As reflected in ICAT’s work throughout 2021, anti-trafficking responses demand a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary and holistic approach that is human rights-based and victim-centred.

Under the leadership of UNHCR and UNODC, ICAT expanded its membership by three more entities to total now of 30 UN entities and other international or regional organizations, broadening ICAT’s expertise and convening a complementarity of mandates relating to multiple facets of trafficking in persons.

ICAT offers a unique policy forum to improve coordination among UN agencies and other organizations and foster collaborative and coordinated actions at international, regional and national levels. For example, in 2021, ICAT reached out to the UN General Assembly with a joint submission to the process of appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. The submission was welcomed by the co-facilitators of the negotiations for the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the Global Plan of Action, which testifies to the more significant impact we can attain effectively working together.

Achieving effective anti-trafficking partnerships can be challenging. In 2021, the ICAT co-Chairs promoted an innovative field outreach strategy that recognizes the differences and specificities of trafficking in persons in regional and local contexts and builds on accumulated knowledge and a shared approach. We reached out to colleagues and organizations involved on the ground in anti-trafficking activities. We initiated a process of regional consultations to identify region-specific priorities, tailor more effective responses, and enhance the impact of our collective action. In the future, it will be critical for ICAT to continue intensifying its outreach to the field and reinforce its cooperation with civil society organizations and other partners.

As ICAT co-Chairs, we are particularly proud of having promoted more systematic participation and engagement of survivors of trafficking in the design and implementation of all anti-trafficking interventions. The priorities of women and girls, men and boys who have been trafficked need to be included in protection, support, prevention and criminal justice programmes. Their rights to protection, assistance and effective remedies need to be prioritised in practice.

Another significant achievement that testifies to our concrete commitment to preventing human trafficking is the Issue Brief on the role of public procurement wherein ICAT provides practical guidance to mitigate the risks of human trafficking in governments and international organizations’ public procurement and supply chains. In drafting the
Issue Brief, ICAT reached out to the procurement practitioners through the Task Force that was set up by the Procurement Network of the UN High-Level Committee on Management (HLCM) to develop a joint approach in combating human trafficking and forced labour in supply chains, who in turn provided important inputs into the Issue Brief. This work also contributed to raising awareness across international organizations on the importance of clean procurement practices, as we prepare for the adoption of a cutting-edge policy framework that will keep the UN at the forefront of best practices in compliance with human rights and labour standards.

In this regard, ICAT stands ready to support the Task Force in promoting the implementation of the policy framework in the coming year.

This report offers a snapshot of the main achievements brought about by the ICAT partnership in 2021, including collective and individual efforts to prevent trafficking in persons, enhance the protection of victims and their access to justice, and prosecute perpetrators.

UNHCR and UNODC
A YEAR IN REVIEW: ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACT

Coordination across the 30 ICAT entities and other relevant stakeholders

In line with its core mandate, ICAT dedicated efforts and resources in 2021 to keep up coordination across its 30 entities and over 60 focal points-wide network, including through the services provided by the ICAT Secretariat, which is hosted by UNODC as the Permanent Coordinator of the coordination mechanism.

In 2021, the ICAT Group met three times virtually in January, April and September to discuss activities advancing the objectives of the mid-term ICAT Action Plan, and exchange information around projects and initiatives undertaken by each entity on trafficking in persons.

In addition, three ad-hoc consultations were conducted to discuss, among others, the findings of the 2020 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons and joint messaging around the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

ICAT also coordinated a meeting with the European Union Anti-Trafficking Coordinator in May 2021, whereupon there was an agreement to institutionalise consultations between the Office of the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator and ICAT and meet annually. The meeting discussed in detail the ICAT Action Plan and the EU Strategy to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings (2021-2025).

Further, the ICAT co-chairs held weekly meetings with the ICAT Secretariat throughout the year to ensure the effective implementation of the 2021 workplan and the co-chairs priorities, while over 50 calls were conducted between the ICAT Secretariat and individual entities to coordinate on specific work.

From top left: Claudio Formisano (UNODC), Sabine Okonkwo (UNHCR), Michele Cavinato (UNHCR), Andrea Salvoni (OSCE), Youla Haddadin (OHCHR).
ICAT also organized an online briefing for Member States in April 2021 focussing on the ICAT’s Analytical Review of anti-trafficking efforts in the 20 years since the adoption of the UN Trafficking in Persons Protocol, and the ICAT Action Plan adopted in December 2020. During the virtual briefing, attended by over 100 participants, States’ representatives commended ICAT for its leadership in global efforts to fight trafficking in persons and welcomed ICAT’s instrumental role in creating and contributing to policy and strategic documents related to trafficking in persons and supporting States with important tools, including the 2020 ICAT Analytical Review.

ICAT also conducted a survey of ICAT entities’ anti-trafficking work, including mandates, areas of expertise and intervention, ongoing initiatives and multi-stakeholder partnerships, and produced a comprehensive mapping resource that was launched in July 2021. The mapping output is a key resource to facilitate cooperation among the ICAT entities, and between States and ICAT entities, in addressing trafficking in persons.

During the year, ICAT also continued exchanging information with other coordination mechanisms working on related topics, such as the UN Network on Migration, the Global Protection Cluster Task Force, and the Alliance 8.7. Engagement with these mechanisms contributes to ensuring a holistic global response to trafficking in persons and avoiding duplication of work.

Finally, an annual meeting of the Heads of Agencies to take stock of the implementation of the ICAT Action Plan one year from its adoption brought together Principals and senior representatives of 26 out of the 30 ICAT entities in November 2021.
Strengthening engagement of victims and survivors’ and inclusion of their voices in anti-trafficking interventions

Regarding Priority 3 of the ICAT Action Plan (Ensuring a right-based approach), ICAT devoted efforts to more systematically engage with victims and survivors of trafficking in persons in policy development and advocacy efforts. In addition, ICAT continued to promote the inclusion of survivors’ voices and perspectives as a core practice for Member States in designing and implementing their anti-trafficking interventions.

Survivors of trafficking are essential partners in responding to trafficking in persons by virtue of their first-hand experience of the effects and impact of this crime, as well as what the road to recovery, justice and social inclusion looks or should look like. Their informed perspectives are particularly crucial in improving the design and implementation of all anti-trafficking responses and to enhance the understanding of the crime itself.

As an initial step, ICAT established contact with the International Survivors of Trafficking Advisory Council (ISTAC), launched by the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) in January 2021, and conducted a side event on “Ensuring Survivor Voices in all Anti-Trafficking Policies Addressing Demand for Trafficking in Human Beings” in the margins of the OSCE Alliance Conference against Trafficking in Persons (15 June). This advocacy event provided a first opportunity for ICAT to raise awareness on the important role that survivors can play in counter-trafficking initiatives within the OSCE region. During the event, a panel of five ISTAC survivor leaders recounted their exploitation and provided concrete recommendations to governments on policies and measures to address trafficking in persons, while buttressing the importance of integrating survivor perspectives in anti-trafficking responses (Read more).

ICAT further leveraged on the annual commemoration of the World Day against Trafficking in Persons (30 July) to pay tribute to victims and survivors of trafficking in line with the theme ‘Victims’ Voices Lead the Way’. The importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking was at the heart of ICAT’s 2021 joint advocacy campaign in commemoration of the Day. As part of the commemoration, ICAT rolled out an advocacy campaign featuring a one-week social media drive on Twitter, where ICAT members had an opportunity to speak with one voice and raise awareness on the topic with their counterparts. It also featured a virtual outreach event, organized in cooperation with OSCE ODIHR and the Apne Aap Women Worldwide, a grassroots Indian organization, on 30 July. The event, attended by over 400 participants, provided a platform for five female and male survivors of trafficking for sexual exploitation to share their experiences and advocate for their voices to be heard in more fora, enabling exchange among stakeholders on how survivors can be engaged to counter this crime (Read more).

ICAT also released a joint statement honouring the resilience and courage of victims and survivors of trafficking and urging all relevant stakeholders to listen to their voices and learn from their experiences when designing anti-trafficking policies and programmes, while avoiding re-victimization. The statement reflects messages and priorities directly advanced by survivors of trafficking.
Following its commitment to strengthening survivor-engagement in its own work, ICAT has systematically invited victims and survivors of trafficking to offer their perspectives in public advocacy and outreach events and also consulted them on the development of a policy brief on understanding and addressing vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons (to be completed and released in 2022).

In the coming year, ICAT will strive to consolidate and advance the important work done so far on this matter, including by offering specific guidance to Member States on the inclusion of survivors and victims’ perspectives in their national anti-trafficking efforts.
Using procurement practices to prevent trafficking in persons

Reducing the demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking in persons was high on the agenda for ICAT in 2021, in line with Priority 5 of the ICAT Action Plan (Discouraging Demand).

Work done in 2021 focused, in particular, on mitigating the risks of trafficking in persons in public procurement practices and supply chains. In this regard, ICAT published an Issue Brief on ‘Preventing Human Trafficking: the Role of Public Procurement’.

The Issue Brief outlines international and national policy frameworks recognizing the duty of governments to undertake due diligence to protect people against human rights violations, including trafficking in persons, in their procurement processes; elaborates on various aspects of procurement including how to achieve sustainable procurement; informs about relevant international cooperation and partnerships; and offers some recommendations on how public procurement can be utilized to prevent and combat trafficking in persons.

The Issue Brief was acknowledged by the 11th session of the intergovernmental Working Group on Trafficking in Persons of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime as a key resource that States are encouraged to use ‘to inform the development of their respective policies, strategies and legislation to strengthen procurement practices’ (see Recommendation 16 in the Report of the Working Group held in October 2021).

The guidance tool was launched in September at a widely attended and focused High-Level Event on Trafficking in Persons and Sustainable Procurement, which saw the participation of the UNODC and OSCE Heads, the co-facilitators of the appraisal process of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, a survivor of trafficking, and experts on trafficking in persons and procurement, such as the Co-Chair of the UN HLCM Procurement Network Task Force for the Development of a Joint Approach in Combating Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in Supply Chains (the UN Procurement Task Force), among others. The event served as an opportunity to raise attention on this topic and note concrete steps that can be taken by States and international organizations to strengthen procurement.
practices, with a view to mitigating risks of trafficking in persons (Read more).

Internally, ICAT also supported existing efforts of the UN Procurement Task Force to clear UN’s own procurement of goods and services from trafficking in persons by facilitating the share of information between the members of the Task Force and ICAT and by raising this issue at the highest level within the membership’s leadership.

ICAT also engaged with the UN Procurement Task Force to identify areas of cooperation and discuss ICAT’s potential role in promoting the implementation of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in Supply Chains Policy Framework being developed by the Task Force, subsequent to its anticipated adoption by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2022.
Support to intergovernmental processes (Appraisal of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons)

The UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (Global Plan of Action) is appraised every four years as per General Assembly resolution 68/192. Three appraisals have been conducted to date in 2013, 2017 and the recent one in 2021. Appraisals of the Global Plan of Action discuss progress and achievements attained in its implementation and reflect on existing gaps and challenges in counter-trafficking efforts globally.

In 2021, in line with its commitment to contribute to global policy development on trafficking in persons and previous practice, ICAT played a key role in supporting the third appraisal of the Global Plan of Action.

For example, ICAT mobilized the participation and contributions of its membership during the Multi-Stakeholder Hearing on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action, organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly, in July.

ICAT also coordinated its 30 entities to speak with a single voice on countering trafficking in persons through a Joint Submission on the appraisal of the Global Plan of Action in July. The Joint Submission offered a series of concrete recommendations to States reviewing the implementation of the Global Plan of Action, including on:

- Addressing the root causes of trafficking in persons and considering the impact of crises on this crime and its victims;
- Discouraging the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including for both sexual and labour exploitation;
- Ensuring a rights-based and victim-centred approach in all interventions, including applying the non-punishment principle for victims of trafficking committing crimes related to their trafficking;
- Improving investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases, including online; and
- Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships with civil society, academia, and the private sector, etc.

The Third Appraisal of the Global Plan of Action was also a focus for the ICAT Heads of Agency at their third Principals’ Meeting in November, where they released a Joint Call for Action on Trafficking in Persons strengthening joint messaging and policy priorities in view of the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly appraising the Global Plan of Action (22-23 November 2021).

During the General Assembly High-Level Meeting, ICAT further made a video submission calling on States to, among others, protect victims of trafficking by ensuring access to justice and effective remedies, and applying the non-punishment principle, which provides that victims of trafficking should not be punished for offences they have committed as a direct consequence of their trafficking situation.

ICAT’s important role in addressing trafficking in persons was widely acknowledged by the General Assembly in the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the
United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (adopted through General Assembly resolution 76/7). The Political Declaration also calls upon ICAT to “continue to increase its activities related to the implementation of the Global Plan of Action”.
Country-level outreach

In line with Priority 6 of the ICAT Action Plan (Systematizing cooperation and multistakeholder partnerships), earlier in the year, ICAT reached out to networks of field-based practitioners, including the National Anti-Trafficking Rapporteurs in the Balkan region and the Serious and Organized Crime Focal Points Network of the UN Police Division, to present the joint recommendations stemming from the 2020 Analytical Review of Anti-Trafficking Efforts and discuss their practical implementation at the national level, including in humanitarian settings.

ICAT further developed a Field Outreach Strategy to engage more systematically with country-level interlocutors, increase ICAT’s impacts at regional and country-level and strengthen anti-trafficking in persons coordination at global and local levels. The Field Outreach Strategy identifies the objectives, activities and methodologies to increase ICAT’s outreach to the field, including through enhanced use of ICAT’s tools and joint policy analyses.

In implementing the Field Outreach Strategy, ICAT supported activities on fostering the implementation of the 2020 CEDAW General Recommendation no. 38 on trafficking of women and girls in the context of global migration at field level, in cooperation with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). This included piloting a first regional-based webinar in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region to present the General Recommendation No.38 to different women’s associations and national human rights institutes (Read more). Additional follow-up webinars targeting other regions may be conducted in 2022.

Furthermore, UNODC and UNHCR, as ICAT co-chairs, in coordination with the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, initiated preparatory work for a Pilot ICAT Regional Consultation on Trafficking in Persons in Eastern Africa. The consultation aims to establish a two-way communication channel between ICAT’s entities and their field interlocutors and promote ICAT’s resources and tools relevant to the region. The consultation, to be conducted in February 2022, will also provide a platform to exchange information on challenges and priority areas of intervention in the region and raise awareness on the mandate of the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons.
Implementation of the non-punishment principle

ICAT is a strong advocate for the non-punishment of victims of trafficking in persons. Under the non-punishment principle, trafficked persons should not be subject to arrest, charge, detention, prosecution, or be penalized or otherwise punished for illegal conduct that they committed as a direct consequence of being trafficked.¹

In 2021, ICAT continued to promote the effective implementation of the non-punishment principle as a cornerstone of a human rights-based and victim-centred approach that fosters the identification and protection of victims and their access to justice, in line with Priority 3 of the ICAT Action Plan (Ensuring a rights-based approach).

Accordingly, building on the ICAT Issue Brief on Non-Punishment of Victims of Trafficking published in 2020, the need for applying the non-punishment principle was highlighted in all ICAT written inputs to intergovernmental processes and joint statements, including the joint submission to the Global Plan of Action appraisal and the call for action to States issued on this occasion, as well as the joint statement on World Day Against Trafficking in Persons.

Furthermore, ICAT held a public Expert Roundtable on the application of the non-punishment principle in cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons on 30 June, in the margins of the 47th Session of the Human Rights Council (following the presentation of a report of the Special Rapporteur on this issue to the Human Rights Council). The event, attended by approximately 130 participants, featured presentations by a panel of experts, including national practitioners and civil society organizations, and a lively interactive debate with participants. The discussion centred on the scope of the principle and the challenges in its practical application to a wide range of forms of punishment experienced by victims as a result of their trafficking (Read more).

Trafficking in Persons for the purpose of Organ Removal

In line with Priority 1 of the Action Plan (Building the evidence base), ICAT conducted analyses of emerging trends on trafficking in persons and provide holistic responses to them. Among these, ICAT focused on the issue of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal, a growing phenomenon in many parts of the world, yet still characterized by very little understanding.

ICAT developed an Issue Brief, in cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), providing an overview of this form of trafficking, its scope and impact, as well as the difference between the crimes of ‘trafficking in persons for organ removal’ and ‘organ trafficking’. It further contains practical guidance for States and other relevant stakeholders on how to effectively respond to this issue. The Issue Brief was launched in November through a media campaign raising awareness on the challenges in detecting and combating this form of trafficking in persons (Read more).
THE YEAR AHEAD

In 2022, ICAT will continue to advance efforts to fulfil its core objectives of enhancing policy coherence and programme coordination as the lead UN coordination mechanism on trafficking in persons, guided by the six priorities in the Action Plan endorsed by the ICAT Principals in December 2020.

Under the lead of the incoming Co-chairs, UNODC and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD), ICAT’s work in 2022 will be guided by the principles of continuity, commitment and meaningful impact, while nurturing existing and new partnerships will be a core effort to push the anti-trafficking agenda forward.

In 2021, ICAT led the coordination with its members and partners to produce policy guidance that was widely recognised as being of a high standard of quality. With this in mind, ICAT will continue in 2022 on the same trajectory and seek to remain consistently relevant to global counter-trafficking efforts. Specifically, ICAT will prioritise the following areas of work:

- **Sustain work to promote the inclusion of survivor voices and perspectives** in the design and implementation of counter-trafficking initiatives. In particular, ICAT will focus more on identifying and engaging survivor entities in less-represented regions of the world in developing survivor-informed policy guidance. Some of the policy outputs envisaged in 2022 include policy briefs on vulnerabilities to trafficking in persons and on inclusion of survivors’ perspectives in anti-trafficking interventions.

- **Promote the use of procurement to prevent trafficking in persons.** In this regard, ICAT will support the UN HLCM Procurement Network Task Force to promote the implementation of the Human Trafficking and Forced Labour in UN Supply Chains Policy Framework within the ICAT membership. The Policy Framework, once approved by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), will be a **strong statement of intent** by the UN System to address trafficking in persons in its procurement and supply chains.

- **Engage with relevant intergovernmental processes to influence multilateral policy and practice on trafficking in persons.** Targeted intergovernmental processes include the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in May 2022, which will allow to assess the implementation of Objective 10 of the Global Compact for Migration on trafficking, the 11th Conference of the Parties of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC COP) in October 2022, among others. ICAT will also engage with the European Union, especially in consultations to review the **EU Anti-Trafficking Directive 2011/36/EU on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings and protecting its victims** that has informed the EU’s response to trafficking in persons since 2011. The review will consider the progress attained in the fight against trafficking in persons since 2011, and new approaches to improve the response.

- **Continue implementing the ICAT field outreach strategy** developed in 2021. In this regard, and in line with the efforts of the 2021 co-Chairs—UNODC and UNHCR—it is anticipated that ICAT will use the lessons learnt from the Regional Consultation for Eastern Africa to engage with the processes in other regions such as West Africa. Leveraging on UNODC and ICMPD’s presence in West Africa, ICAT plans to engage with other migration
processes such as the Euro-African Dialogue on Migration and Development (Rabat Process) and the EU-Horn of Africa Migration Route Initiative (Khartoum Process), and ensure that ICAT policy guidance is also informed by the issues on the ground in the region.

- Continue engaging with other coordination mechanisms such as the UN Network on Migration (UNNM), Alliance 8.7 and the Global Protection Cluster Anti-Trafficking Task Team, among others.

In 2022, ICAT will seek to consolidate and advance progress on collective work done in the past years, and further its role as the lead UN coordination and policy development mechanism on trafficking in persons. The multiple acknowledgements to ICAT’s important work in the fight against this crime, including most recently by the General Assembly in its 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons bear testimony of the efforts of the Coordination Group and its entire membership.
ANNEX HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP
Following the endorsement of a Plan of Action by ICAT Principals in December 2020, members and partners individually undertook numerous activities to implement the six priority areas outlined in the strategic framework. This Annex aims to provide a snapshot of accomplishments by individual entities under each priority area. The information provided is by no means exhaustive, and rather offers a selection of highlights of work, mostly undertaken at the global level.

**PRIORITY #1**

**Building the evidence base: A shift from awareness towards impact**

- **CTED** engaged in dialogue with States on the linkages between international law and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) committed by terrorist groups, including on links between human trafficking and terrorism financing.

- **ILO**, together with its partners, including IOM and Walk Free Foundation, developed and published the [Global Estimates of Modern Slavery](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---pro Kenneth/---dgreports/---dgreports/documents/publication/wcms_764698.pdf), aimed at forming a global consensus on modern slavery to be used as baseline to inform policy-making and reach the SDGs.


- The **Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict** advocated for increased investment in and capacity for the collection of gender- and age-disaggregated data and for data management and analysis regarding violations against conflict-affected children, including in the Special Representative’s report to the General Assembly (A/76/231) and through a public [statement](https://www.un.org/unodc/en/indices-and-publications/unodc-data-statistics-unodc-statistical-reports.html).

- The **CoE** studied the link between technology and human trafficking, a report of which will be issued in early 2022. Furthermore, the CoE issued a new [Guidance Note on preventing and combating trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation](https://rm.coe.int/16806a386e). Further, the CoE Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings published reports evaluating the implementation of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking of Bulgaria, Denmark, Georgia, Malta, Montenegro, Romania and the United Kingdom.

- Under the **TRACK4TIP** (Transforming Alerts into Criminal Justice Responses to Combat Trafficking in persons within migration flows) framework in South America and the Caribbean, **UNODC** produced seven country situational reports on mixed migration flows, including the
risks, modus operandi and trends of criminal networks involved in human trafficking of Venezuelans in the Americas. Aside the TRACK4TIP framework, UNODC also published several global resources on trafficking in persons:

- *Global Trafficking in Persons Report 2020*
- Issue paper on the [Concept of Harbouring](#)
- *Female victims of trafficking for sexual exploitation as defendants: a case-law analysis*, which highlights that victims of trafficking are often doubly victimised by criminal justice systems, as they are used by traffickers as shields from prosecution.
- In October, UNODC also ran a successful [Knowledge Week on Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling](#) bringing together experts, practitioners and relevant stakeholders together to stimulate discussion on human trafficking and migrant smuggling.

- **UNHCR** conducted preparatory work and consultations to launch a research on trafficking in refugee camps and urban areas. The purpose is to enhance the understanding of trafficking in these contexts and develop evidence-based strategies to prevent the trafficking of refugees and protect victims of trafficking and persons at risk of being trafficked in such contexts. Further, UNHCR and the Mixed Migration Centre published *A Roadmap for Advocacy, Policy Development, and Programming: Protection in Mixed Movements along the Central and Western Mediterranean Routes 2021*. The report, which includes a specific focus on trafficking in persons and human smuggling, provides valuable insights and perspectives from academia and practitioners towards sustainable, protection-centred approaches to asylum and migration management by States.

- The **UN Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children** published a report to the General Assembly, which analysed trafficking in persons in the context of terrorism (*A/76/263*).

**PRIORITY #2**

**Addressing the core drivers: A shift towards vulnerability reduction**

- **IOM** developed materials to better understand vulnerability, in particular of migrants.
• **OAS**, worked in El Salvador and Honduras targeting youths at risk of trafficking to develop their life skills. In this regard, the OAS also provided training for educators, security and justice officials, health practitioners etc., to identify vulnerabilities to and risk of violence and crime and assist in strengthening community resilience.

• The **United Nations Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect** worked on preventing atrocity crimes (genocide crimes against humanity and war crimes), which show clear linkages to human trafficking, affecting mainly women belonging to ethnic minority groups, particularly in Iraq and Nigeria.

• **UN Women** worked on addressing the gender dimension of trafficking in persons, as well as addressing trafficking in the broader continuum of violence against women and girls, as root causes and risk factors for trafficking in persons. Activities included:
  ▪ Highlighting the specific vulnerabilities and protection needs of women and girls victims and survivors of trafficking in trainings of police officials and frontline responders.
  ▪ Publishing a policy brief on the *specific vulnerabilities of migrant women and girls to gender-based violence*, particularly trafficking.

• **UNODC** worked in Jordan, Lebanon and Malawi to address the protection and assistance needs of refugees and displaced people, including reducing the risk of refugees becoming victims of trafficking.

### PRIORITY #3

**Ensuring a rights-based approach:**
A shift towards protection mechanisms tailored to the victims’ needs

• The **CBSS** promoted the Barnahus model to respond to violence against children. The Barnahus Model is a ‘multi-disciplinary and inter-agency practice responding to violence against children’.

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2 OSAPG and UNITAD launched a series of *Inter-faith dialogues* in May 2021 with the leaders of the Chaldean Catholic, Kakai’I, Shia, Sunni and Yazidi communities to provide a forum for religious communities and minorities to come together and discuss implementation of the inter-faith statement on supporting victims of Da’esh adopted by main religious leaders in Iraq in March 2020.

3 OSAPG and the Farmers and Herders Initiative for Peace and Development conducted inter-communal dialogues in North-West Nigeria to support and promote non-violent approaches to conflict transformation, peace, justice, and peaceful coexistence among communities and minorities including women in April 2021.
• The CoE developed guidance and training on the protection of the private life and personal data of victims of trafficking in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and guidance on child-sensitive communication and interviewing to obtain reliable statements from child victims of trafficking in Serbia.

• UNICEF continued advocacy towards child-friendly and gender-sensitive responses and launched the Reimagine Justice for Children Agenda at the World Congress on Justice with Children in November 2021. The Agenda has six specific calls for action as follows:
  ▪ Every child knows and can claim their rights;
  ▪ Every child can access free legal aid, representation and services;
  ▪ Every child in conflict with the law can be diverted;
  ▪ Every child is protected from detention;
  ▪ Every child survivor of sexual violence, abuse or exploitation receives justice; and
  ▪ Every child can access alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and child-friendly courts.

• The Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict continued to advocate for a rights-based child-sensitive and victims and survivors-centred approach and for children associated with parties to conflict to be treated as victims and not as perpetrators. This was stressed by the Special Representative in at least 15 speeches including at the side event on “Addressing the plight of children allegedly associated with armed groups, including those designated as terrorist groups by the United Nations” organized by her Office in collaboration with the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. As mentioned in the “Study on the evolution of the Children and Armed Conflict mandate (1996-2021)”, the Office also launched the Nairobi Process to provide a platform for children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups to share their perspectives and advice. The Nairobi Process will culminate in a symposium in Nairobi in 2022.

• UNHCR’s Special Envoy for the Central and Western Mediterranean Situation published a report in 2021 on Mapping protection services for victims of trafficking and other vulnerable people on the move in the Sahel and Eastern Africa, aiming to support increased referrals to protection services for asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants who have suffered abuses along common mixed movement routes in these regions. In addition, through its community-based information project Telling the Real Story, UNHCR continued to engage with refugee communities about the dangers of irregular movement and make referrals to protection and assistance services as well as complementary pathways where available, through social media, community leaders, local celebrities, volunteers and diaspora. UNHCR also contributed to the final European conference of the TRIPS project—identification of TRafficked International Protection beneficiaries Special needs—on 7 December. UNHCR contribution focused on laws and policies supporting the integration of beneficiaries of international protection who were trafficked or at risk of trafficking.

• UNODC organized a number of online events to commemorate the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, under the theme ‘Victims’ Voices Lead the Way’, and produced a variety of advocacy outputs, including videos, statements, and a joint UNODC-EU statement highlighting the importance of listening to and learning from survivors of human trafficking. UNODC further published several materials to support practitioners in mainstreaming rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches in addressing trafficking in persons, including:
• Toolkit for mainstreaming Human Rights and Gender Equality into criminal justice interventions to address trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants (produced within the framework of the Global Action against Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants (GLO.ACT), implemented in partnership with IOM and funded by the European Union).

• Abused and Neglected: a Gender perspective on aggravated migrant smuggling offences and response”, which notes that smuggled migrants and refugees often suffer from dangerous circumstances and abusive and violent treatment while under the control of their smugglers, and calls for States to develop effective responses “that protect the human rights of migrants and provide them with assistance and support”.

• The OSCE published two resources to support practitioners in mainstreaming gender-sensitive approaches in addressing trafficking in persons:
  - A research paper on Applying Gender-Sensitive Approaches in Combating Trafficking in Human Beings. The paper offers a comprehensive account of gender aspects in trafficking in human beings, and provides a basis to apply gender-sensitive approaches, exploring a range of gender aspects that are often not addressed in existing prevention, protection, and prosecution strategies. A report on Trafficking in Human Beings and Terrorism: Where and How They Intersect, analysing activities of terrorist groups through the lens of trafficking in human beings. Through a critical analysis of legal and policy regimes, the paper provides a comparative study of two crimes – human trafficking and terrorism – based on a series of illustrative examples collected from throughout the OSCE region.

### PRIORITY #4

**Holding traffickers accountable: Ending the culture of impunity of traffickers**

• The CBSS introduced the Transnational Referral Mechanism of the Baltic Sea Region to guide professionals in the field to assist victims of transnational trafficking in persons appropriately, and to prosecute perpetrators.

• The CoE provided training to criminal justice actors and lawyers in Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

• The ICPO-Interpol coordinated the Operations Weka and Libertia aimed at ending impunity of traffickers and systemizing cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships. These two operations involved dozens of countries globally and led to the identification of hundreds of
victims of trafficking and registered more than 500 arrests. The role of key partners in these operations, including IOM for victim assistance and UNODC for post-operational support to countries, further confirmed that inter-agency efforts are the gold standard of anti-trafficking action.

- **OAS** Expert Group for the Control of Money Laundering concluded a study on human trafficking and smuggling of migrants on money laundering, which confirmed the link between money laundering, trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants, and that there is need to disrupt the criminal gangs financially. In Honduras, the OAS, in partnership with the UN, implemented the MENTHOR project mentoring members of the Attorney General’s office and strengthening capacity to investigate and prosecute trafficking in persons and provide protection to victims and survivors of trafficking.

- **UNODC** worked to strengthen the capacity of the criminal justice system in-country and at regional level, including by:
  - Conducting coaching sessions for women in law enforcement under GLO.ACT aimed to strengthen capacity to identify victims, hold traffickers accountable, and end the impunity of traffickers. Part of this work also included providing legislative support to States to develop new frameworks or review and strengthen implementation of legislation on trafficking in persons in the Comoros, Dominican Republic, India, Iraq, Somalia, etc. Supporting, in collaboration with ICPO-Interpol, in the third cycle of Operation Turquesa to detect and dismantle trafficking rings in the 38 participating countries (Read more).

- **DPO - UNPOL** continued to support host States to build their technical investigative capacities regarding the investigation of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and especially its convergence with trafficking of women and girls. With the support of Member States, UNPOL deployed Specialized Police Teams on SGBV to UN peacekeeping missions—MINUSCA (Central African Republic), MONUSCO (Democratic Republic of Congo) and UNMISS (South Sudan)—to support national authorities’ efforts, which has enabled a better understanding of how to approach investigations involving victims of sexual violence and trafficking.

- **The OSCE** published its report on Ending Impunity Delivering Justice through Prosecuting Trafficking in Human Beings, compiling the highlights of the 20th Conference of the Alliance Against Trafficking in Persons on this very topic, and containing a series of recommendations for States to increase the number and quality of their prosecution of trafficking cases.

- **The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery** presented a report to the General Assembly on the Role of organized criminal groups with regard to contemporary forms of slavery (A/76/170).

- **ICMPD** coordinated an evidence-based campaign against impunity that took place with the support of the Members of the Network of Anti Trafficking Coordinators across 10 South East European States.
PRIORITY #5

Discouraging demand: From recognition to systemic responses

- Under the High-Level Committee on Management Procurement Network (HLCM-PN), ILO and the OSCE coordinated the Task Force to develop a policy framework to ensure that UN agencies and regional organizations can use their purchasing power to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. The Policy Framework will be submitted to the UN System Chief Executives Board of Coordination for approval.

- The OSCE held its 2021 Conference of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons on “discouraging demand- tacking a root cause of trafficking”, where experts discussed how demand for goods and services that could be produced by or extracted from trafficked persons provides traffickers with the economic incentive for pursing the crime and fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, as it guarantees a market for those goods and services. The OSCE also published its research on Discouraging the demand that fosters trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, highlighting the importance of addressing the demand that fosters trafficking for sexual exploitation, in particular the exploitation of the prostitution of others, outlining the scope of the international obligations of States to discourage demand, and analysing the ways in which States have responded to these obligations in their criminal justice and prevention practice. The OSCE further continued working with its procurement personnel to strengthen its measures to prevent the purchase of goods and services produced by trafficking labour. As part of this engagement, it made public its procurement guidance.

PRIORITY #6

Systematizing cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships

- ILO worked with ICAT entities, especially UNODC and IOM, to develop a standard tool to measure trafficking for forced labour.

- As co-leads of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team on Anti-Trafficking in Humanitarian Action, UNHCR and IOM developed and provided training sessions to disseminate the
Introductory Guide to Anti-Trafficking Action in Internal Displacement Contexts in protection clusters. In addition, in 2021, UNHCR finalised the implementation of the UNHCR Trafficking and Smuggling Learning Programme in the Middle East and North Africa region (TSLP MENA). The TSLP focused on supporting UNHCR operations and key partners to address risk factors and enhance prevention and protection responses for persons under UNHCR’s mandate who are victims or at risk of trafficking and serious abuse during smuggling. This rights-based learning programme fostered multi-stakeholder partnership and coordinated action with partners in the region, including IOM, UNICEF, UNODC and the North Africa Mixed Migration Task Force that also contributed to the programme.

- In the framework of the WeProtect Global Alliance (a multi-sectoral initiative comprising government, industry, civil society and international organisations), UNICEF provided ongoing policy advice and led a global review of national responses to online child sexual exploitation that will be launched at the WeProtect Global Summit now planned for June 2022.

- The CoE and OSCE conducted a meeting of national anti-trafficking coordinators and rapporteurs or equivalent mechanisms and similar mechanisms, focusing on providing assistance to victims of trafficking, independently of their participation in criminal justice processes.

- UNODC promoted the engagement of non-criminal justice stakeholders on the side of States to prevent and counter human trafficking through public private partnerships and published a Compendium on Promising Practices on this matter, focusing on supply chains, the technology and the financial sectors. UNODC also supported several intergovernmental engagements on trafficking in persons, including the meeting of the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons held in October 2021. The Working Group, made of national experts, discussed technology and trafficking, and the role of procurement and supply chains in preventing trafficking in persons, and issued a number of recommendations, detailed in the report of the meeting.

- ICMPD developed and published Practitioner’s Guide for Developing and Monitoring National Anti-Trafficking Response, which put at its core the cooperation and multi-stakeholder partnerships. The tool provides a step by step guidance on what a national anti-trafficking response is, how it should be designed or revised, and by whom it should be implemented. It outlines the key steps and issues to be considered in setting up effective structures and procedures for results-based monitoring, review and evaluation of national action plans to combat trafficking in human beings. ICMPD also continued to invest significant efforts in improving multi-stakeholder partnerships and collaboration platforms in West Africa and Europe:
  - In West Africa, and with ICMPD support, the governments of Niger and Nigeria concluded a Memorandum of Understanding and established a Joint Technical Working Group allowing anti-trafficking coordination bodies to work on a bilateral basis with operational outcomes.
  - In Europe, as part of the support ICMPD provides to the Network of Anti Trafficking Coordinators for South East Europe (NATC SEE), and under the patronage of the Slovenian Presidency of the European Union, ICMPD carried out a strategic analysis of the points of convergence of the European Union Anti Trafficking Bodies and that of the NATC SEE, which were discussed at a joint conference between the EU National Rapporteurs and the NATC SEE and will be operationalised in 2022.