

**TRAFFICKING IN CHILDREN ON THE RISE:
IMMEDIATE ACTION REQUIRED
MARGINS OF THE 58TH SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

**Venue : Palais des Nations, Geneva
Room XXII
14 March 2025
14:00-15:00 CET
(9:00 – 10:00 EST)**

Guidance Note for Speakers and Panelists

Event Overview

Date and Time: 14 March 2025

Venue: Palais des Nations, Geneva - Room XXII

Duration: 1 hour

Format: Panel Discussion with Q&A, hybrid (in-person and online)

Language: simultaneous interpretation available, EN, SP, FR and Nepali.

Event organized by: The Office of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children in collaboration with partners.

Objectives

1. Spotlight on the alarming rise in trafficking in children, its root causes and its multiple and devastating consequences;
2. Highlight practical actions for durable solutions that are efficiently addressing the growing vulnerabilities of children; responding to organized criminal activities related to child trafficking in particular those facilitated by technology; and addressing the global and local demand for the exploitation of children.

Scenario of the event

- **Introduction and scene setting (20 minutes), including keynote address.**

Welcome: Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children

Key Address: Ms. Ghada Waly, Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([Video message](#))

Ms. Sophie Otiende, Champion for victims of human trafficking and a survivor (6 min)

Opening remarks with a crucial perspective in setting the scene for today's important discussion on the root causes, consequences, and solutions to this critical issue.

- **Panel Discussion (35 minutes):** Actions taken and remaining challenges. A round of short interventions by the panelists followed by Q&A.

In this segment, Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid (SRSG-VAC) will moderate the discussion. She will facilitate the Q&A, manage the flow of questions, and ensure everyone has the chance to speak. If you need any time adjustments, please let the moderator know beforehand.

Panelists: (Some speakers are being confirmed this week. The order of the speakers is subject to change)

- Ms. Aleksandra Chotuj, Head of the Department for Combating Human Trafficking, Hate Crimes and Supporting Activities within the EU Internal Security Policy at the Department of Public Order of the Ministry of Interior and Administration in Poland
- Ms. Laura Arango, Counsellor for Humanitarian Affairs, Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations in Geneva
- Ms. Tolulola Olufunmilayo Odugbesan, Director of the Violence Against Person Prohibition (VAPP) Department in Nigeria
- Mr. Mark Beavan, Head of Crimes against Children Unit, INTERPOL
- Mr. Guillaume Landry, Executive Director of ECPAT
- Ms. Charimaya Tamang, Founder and Executive Director of Shakti Samuha (CSO from Nepal)

Each panelist is asked to address one of the following questions in 3 - 5 minutes:

1. Noting the alarming increase in child trafficking, what are some of the actions your government/ your organization is taking to address the vulnerabilities of children? government representative? (proposed question for the representative of Poland, Mexico and Nigeria)
2. Given the growing use of technology by organized criminal networks in facilitating child trafficking, what effective strategies or interventions can be implemented to combat this challenge, protect children from digital exploitation and hold perpetrators accountable/end impunity? -- (Proposed question for the representative of Interpol and ECPAT)
3. How can governments, NGOs, and communities collaborate to create durable solutions that address both the global demand for child exploitation and the need for comprehensive support for survivors of trafficking? (Proposed question for the representative of Shakti Samuha)

Depending on the time, the moderator will ask a follow up question for each panelist.

- **Closing (10 minutes)**

Summary Dr. Najat Maalla M'jid

Logistics:

Please meet in the meeting venue 30 minutes before the start of the event for a brief meet and greet with the moderator and fellow panellists.

All speakers and presenters: Please register using this [link](#).

For in-person participation: Please be at the meeting venue at 13:30

If you do not have the UN Grounds Pass, we will have your guest pass available either through your mission (for government speakers) or at the entrance to the **Palais des Nations**.

A staff member will be at the venue, which is **Room XXII**.

If you have a UN Grounds Pass, please meet in the **Room XXII**

For online participation:

Please connect to the Zoom platform at 13:30 CET (which is 18:15 Kathmandu). The exact link will be shared with you shortly.

For Your Preparation

Please send:

- Before 10 March, a brief bio and a photo by 5 March.
- Before 12 March, any talking points you plan to use, for the purpose of interpretation. Please indicate which discussion question you would like to address in your remarks.
- Email address to send them to: SRSG-VAC Office

Pablo Espiniella <pablo.espiniella@un.org>

Marta Hurtado Gomez <marta.hurtadogomez@un.org>

Due to time limitations, lengthy statements/speeches and PowerPoint presentations are strongly discouraged. The aim is to have an interactive discussion. Panellists are encouraged to share three or four key recommendations/ reflections based on the discussion questions with a focus on (a) what works and why; and (b) what else should be done.

Background Documents

Annual Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children

[العربية](#) | [中文](#) | [English](#) | [Français](#) | [русский](#) | [Español](#)

[Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2024 \(GLOTIP\)](#), UNODC 2024

[Child Trafficking: A crime against children that needs to end today](#), SRSB-VAC Office, 2024

[Call for Accelerated Action by 2025 to Prevent and End Child Trafficking](#), ICAT 2023