

Introductory note – 2024 Global Technical Consultation on the International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons

Rationale and background

The importance of addressing trafficking in persons (TIP) is underscored by the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM), in particular through the following sustainable development goal (SDG) targets and GCM Objectives:

- SDG target 5.2: elimination of violence, including trafficking, sexual & other types of exploitation.
- SDG target 8.7: eradication of forced labour, modern slavery & human trafficking, worst forms of child labour.
- SDG target 16.2: end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.
- GCM Objective 10: prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration.

Additionally, the GCM (specifically in Objective 1) and the Kyoto Declaration from the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice highlight the need for evidence-based strategies to prevent and address trafficking in persons, including through accurate, disaggregated data to inform policy and programming.

With many countries already having established a legal basis for combating the crime, the fight against trafficking in persons (TIP) has entered a crucial second phase where the emphasis is on improving and targeting responses to strengthen the protection of victims, prosecute perpetrators, and prevent trafficking through evidence-based measures. High-quality, standardized data is essential for these efforts.

Despite the near-universal ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, efforts to combat TIP and to leverage data and evidence to inform policies face significant challenges. These include the lack of a uniform framework for data collection and classification, resource constraints, coordination issues, and data quality concerns. Administrative data from criminal justice and protection systems are vital for understanding and addressing TIP but are often inconsistent and not comparable across borders.

To address these challenges, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have worked with anti-trafficking practitioners and technical experts to develop a draft *International Classification Standard for Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons* (ICS-TIP). The ICS-TIP provides standardized definitions for classification

variables of the trafficking in persons event, as well as disaggregating variables at the victim, perpetrator and reporting entity levels. A companion manual for the ICS-TIP has also been produced, *Making Each Case Count: Leveraging Administrative Data on Trafficking in Persons*, which provides guidance for the collection, practical management and use of trafficking in persons administrative data, including recommendations on the sharing and reporting of such data, as well as considerations for inter-agency data governance frameworks.

Objectives of the Global Consultation on a Common Statistical Framework on TIP

Following thorough initial consultations with anti-trafficking technical experts conducted in recent years, the ICS-TIP working draft is now being shared with stakeholders at the national and international level, as part of a global consultation, in order to collect wide and articulated technical feedback on the draft. Through collecting this feedback, IOM and UNODC's objective is to ensure that the ICS-TIP is relevant and facilitates consistent, high-quality data collection and reporting on trafficking in persons across Member States. In addition, IOM and UNODC will eventually submit the ICS-TIP for endorsement by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Ultimately, the aim of this whole process is to facilitate the production of national statistics that can be used to improve the national and international evidence base, informing policymaking programmatic responses, as well as regional and international coordination, as well as reporting on international commitments, notably on the SDGs and the GCM.

Representatives of National Statistical Offices and other National Authorities from Member States from all regions of the world will be invited to join the consultation process and contribute to the establishment of the statistical standard.

Post-consultation, the ICS-TIP will be refined based on the feedback received. In order for ICS-TIP to be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for decision, it will require recommendation from the United Nations Committee of Experts of International Statistical Classifications. The finalized version will then be presented for endorsement by the United Nations Statistical Commission. Once adopted, the ICS-TIP will provide the official United Nations statistical standard for the collection and sharing of administrative data on trafficking in persons.

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