

TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR
The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons
(ICAT)

Finalized on 12/07/2013, as amended (July 2015)

1. Background

The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT)¹ is a policy forum mandated to improve coordination and cooperation among UN entities² and other relevant international organizations to facilitate a holistic and comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons, including protection of and support for victims of trafficking, as reflected in relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

2. ICAT Objectives

The objectives of ICAT are:

1. To provide a platform to share information, experiences and good practices on anti-trafficking activities of the partner entities with member States, other international and regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other relevant bodies, and to find appropriate mechanisms to jointly interact with member States;
2. To encourage and support the activities of the UN and other international organizations with the aim of ensuring a full and comprehensive implementation of all international instruments and standards of relevance;
3. Drawing on the comparative advantage of the respective entities, to promote effective and efficient use of existing resources, and, to the extent possible, utilizing and creating synergies with existing mechanisms at all levels;
4. To continue to work towards a comprehensive, coordinated and holistic approach to human trafficking which is gender and age-sensitive and grounded in a human rights based approach;
5. To strengthen effective measures to prosecute traffickers, prevent trafficking in persons and protect and support their victims; and
6. To agree, wherever possible, on joint positions, responses and actions in addressing specific situations or developments, and to disseminate these positions as required.

¹ Further to the first steps undertaken by General Assembly resolution 61/180, “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”, adopted 20 December 2006, in the development of ICAT, subsequent resolutions adopted by ECOSOC and the General Assembly addressing inter-agency coordination have all referred specifically to the work of the Inter-agency coordination group against trafficking in persons (ICAT).

² The term “UN entities” refers to organizations, agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations, as well as departments/offices of the United Nations Secretariat.

3. ICAT Governance Structure

A. ICAT Membership

1. The full membership of ICAT consists of 16 entities.³
2. Each member shall designate a focal point for the purposes of communication of activities through ICAT.

B. ICAT Working Group

1. The Working Group is ICAT's decision-making body.
2. Members of the Working Group⁴ are committed to participate in regular consultations and meetings and to actively engage in the implementation of ICAT's work plan.
3. The Working Group will have the following tasks:
 - a) Develop and implement an annual work plan;
 - b) Oversee the process of resource mobilization for the ICAT work plan; and
 - c) Take decisions on all budgetary allocations directly linked to ICAT.
4. Any member of the Working Group may, with the prior approval of the Working Group, receive extra-budgetary funds on behalf of ICAT in relation to the work plan.
5. The Working Group will reach decisions by consensus. Agreement has to be expressed in writing. The Chair will facilitate discussions, call for objections and confirm the decision reached.
6. The meetings of the Working Group will be open to all ICAT members as non-voting observers. Having actively participated for twelve consecutive months in meetings and activities of the Working Group, the ICAT member will be admitted to the Working Group. The ICAT member will be requested to confirm in writing their interest in joining the Working Group.

C. ICAT Chair

1. The position of ICAT Chair will rotate amongst the members of the Working Group on an annual basis, in the order in which they appear in Annex 3.
2. The Chair will have the following tasks:
 - a) Facilitate discussions and seek to build consensus amongst Working Group members;
 - b) Represent ICAT in official functions, conferences and meetings;
 - c) Lead arrangements for ICAT meetings;
 - d) Co-lead the development of the annual work plan, in close consultation with the successive Chair;
 - e) Communicate with ICAT members and partners on behalf of the Working Group;

³ ICAT members are presented in Annex 1.

⁴ ICAT Working Group members are presented in Annex 2.

- f) Carry out any administrative tasks required to support the functioning of the Working Group, as well as the implementation of the work plan;
- g) Solicit, collect, assemble and distribute relevant information among ICAT members and partners, as required;
- h) Maintain records of the deliberations and work of the Working Group;
- i) Prepare an annual report at the end of the Chairmanship; and
- j) Promote cooperation and continuous sharing of information among ICAT members and partners.

D. ICAT Coordinator

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will continue to serve as a repository for the annual records of ICAT, use the Chair’s report as a basis for reporting to Member States as per current reporting requirements, and make ICAT records available upon request.

E. ICAT Partners

1. In the spirit of relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on “Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons”, and in particular paragraph 14 of A/RES/61/180, ICAT encourages United Nations entities which are not members of ICAT and relevant international organizations outside of the United Nations system to become partners of ICAT (“ICAT Partners”).
2. ICAT Partners will be:
 - a) kept informed of the schedule of ICAT meetings and progress made by the group;
 - b) invited to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of ICAT;
 - c) invited to contribute to ICAT initiatives, as appropriate;
 - d) invited to share information regarding their anti-trafficking in persons activities and initiatives with ICAT.
3. In order for an organization to become an ICAT Partner, the following criteria shall be fulfilled:
 - a) The organization shall be international, which shall be understood to mean
 - i) intergovernmental (including global, regional and sub-regional organizations), or,
 - ii) if non-governmental, of international reach, i.e. maintaining an operational presence in at least two regions of the world.
 - b) The organization shall be relevant, i.e. its mandate or statute must include addressing trafficking in persons or aspects thereof.
 - c) Interest to become an ICAT Partner shall be expressed in writing to the ICAT Chair or Secretariat.

Annex 1: ICAT members

Department of Peace Keeping Operations (DPKO)

International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

International Criminal Police Organization (ICPO-Interpol)

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization on Migration (IOM)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations Joint Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

United Nations Development Program (UNDP)

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

The World Bank

Annex 2: ICAT Working Group members

International Labour Organization (ILO)

International Organization on Migration (IOM)

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

Annex 3: ICAT Chairs

2007-2010	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
2011	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
2012	United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
2013	International Labour Organization (ILO)
2014	International Organization on Migration (IOM)
2015	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)
2016	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
2017	(to be determined)
2018	
2019	
2020	