The G7 Research Group at the Munk School of Global Affairs at Trinity College in the University of Toronto presents the

2017 Taormina G7 Final Compliance Report
27 May 2017 to 25 May 2018

Prepared by
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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues – a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme, in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit
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“We agree to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.”

Roadmap for a Gender-Responsive Economic Environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Lack of Compliance</th>
<th>Partial Compliance</th>
<th>Full Compliance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>+1</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
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<tr>
<td>European Union</td>
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<td>+1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average</td>
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Background

According to the United Nations, “the vast majority of all human trafficking victims — some 71% — are women and girls and one third are children.”864 The recent global migration crisis has had a huge impact on the trafficking of persons, with people escaping from war and persecution being particularly vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking.865 At Taormina, G7 leaders acknowledged that “states share a responsibility in managing the flow of migrants; in protecting refugees and migrants; safeguarding women at risk, adolescents, children and unaccompanied minors; and in enforcing border control,” because “these are essential instruments to reduce human trafficking and exploitation.”866 G7 leaders also recognized that “a multi sector response is crucial to stop harassment and all forms of violence, including human trafficking for both sexual and labour exploitation — against women and girls, including migrants and refugees.”867

Previous G7 commitments have recognized the importance of tackling all forms of gender-based violence, including holding perpetrators to account, and making all efforts to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.868 At the 2016 Ise Shima Summit, G7 leaders stated their commitment to work with the UN and others to advance the Women, Peace and Security agenda and called on all states “to support full implementation of the United Nations Secretary General’s zero tolerance policy towards sexual exploitation and of the UN Security Council resolution 2272.”869


One of the aims of this Roadmap is to promote and enforce measures to end violence against women and girls and the harmful practices of human trafficking and exploitation.

**Commitment Features**

This commitment states that G7 members agree to “promote” and “facilitate” cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies. In order to “promote” cooperation, G7 members must support old efforts or create new efforts to help prosecute those engaged in human trafficking and exploitation of women and girls. The term “facilitate” can be defined as taking steps to help bring about the prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking and exploitation.

Thus, efforts to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of human traffickers could include, but are not limited to, promoting measures that would ensure the prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking and exploitation, strengthening existing legislation or creating new legislation with a view to punishing those engaged in human trafficking and exploitation, “establishing specialized police units and judicial structures,” and setting up cooperation and concerted action among all relevant law enforcement authorities with a view to prosecuting perpetrators of trafficking.

At past summits, G7 leaders committed to tackle human trafficking by strengthening cooperation with their partner countries, with special attention to African, Middle East, and neighboring countries of origin and transit. Under UN programmes, such as the Global Action to Prevent and Address Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants, G7 members have pledged to promote international cooperation with law enforcement officials “on the identification, investigation and prosecution of offences related to trafficking in persons” and to “work with governmental...
authorities to ensure that domestic legislative frameworks meet international standards for criminalizing trafficking in persons.  

The United Nations defines human trafficking of persons in the context of exploitation as a crime that includes three elements: 1) the act of recruiting, transporting, transferring, harbouring or receiving a person; 2) by means of e.g., coercion, deception or abuse of vulnerability; 3) for the purpose of exploitation. Forms of exploitation include, sexual exploitation, slavery and forced labour, among others.

The primary goal of this commitment is to help “ensure” the “effective and timely prosecution” of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally. The International Framework for Action to Implement the Trafficking in Persons Protocol indicates various objectives that could be implemented to “ensure” the prosecution of traffickers, such as “ensuring comprehensive training for law enforcement, immigration, judicial authorities, prosecutors, and other relevant officials in combatting persons in trafficking, and ensuring an appropriate criminal justice response and legal framework.” The term “timely prosecution” means that G7 members must take measures aimed at establishing a swift system of prosecution and punishment of traffickers. Efforts to help ensure the “timely prosecution” of traffickers could include considering a system to “improve the criminal justice responses to detect, investigate and successfully prosecute cases.”

Finally, it is important to note that only actions that have been undertaken since the Taormina Summit are eligible for consideration in the evaluation of compliance.

**Scoring Guidelines**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-1</td>
<td>G7 member has not taken any efforts to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>G7 member has taken efforts to promote OR effectively prosecute those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically OR internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+1</td>
<td>G7 member has taken efforts to promote AND effectively prosecute those engaged in human trafficking or exploitation, both domestically AND internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.</td>
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Canada: 0

Canada has partially complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 7 August 2017, Canada’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Chrystia Freeland, announced almost CAD7 million in funding to combat human trafficking in Asia. The projects aim to support law enforcement agencies in Malaysia, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand by promoting the development of counter-smuggling legislation, increasing investigative capacity, and encouraging cross-border collaboration. These projects will be funded by Canada’s Anti-Crime Capacity Building Program, which “supports other state government agencies through international organizations, non-governmental entities and the sharing of Government of Canada expertise, to prevent and respond to threats posed by transnational criminal activity, including human trafficking.”

On 26 November 2017, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued a statement on the migrant slave trade in Libya and encouraged the international community to work together to eradicate human trafficking. Trudeau condemned the migrant slave trade taking place in Libya and said that “Canada will not stay silent in the face of such inhumane atrocities.” Trudeau called on all United Nations members to “implement and respect the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking, Especially Women and Children.” Trudeau said that “Canada will continue its work to eradicate human trafficking and support all international efforts to bring those who prey on vulnerable people to justice.”

On 5 April 2018, the Government of Canada published its new Feminist International Assistance Policy. The policy goes on to describe five action areas, including partners and projects, where Canadian international assistance funding would work to empower women around the world. The areas of Peace and Security and Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and Girls both outline the need to use comprehensive approaches to end human trafficking.


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Canada has taken some efforts to promote the prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking, by promoting relevant international frameworks and has funded international projects aimed at strengthening law enforcement agencies and increasing investigative capacity to combat human trafficking. However, Canada falls short in taking any significant actions to ensure the effective and timely prosecution of human trafficking perpetrators.

Thus, Canada receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Karl Greenfield and Duja Muhanna

France: +1

France has fully complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 11 September 2017, France’s Department of Criminal Affairs and Pardons within the Ministry of Justice held a seminar to discuss the fight against migrant trafficking. Minister of Justice Nicole Belloubet called for greater local efforts in prosecuting smugglers of migrants, as well as increased international cooperation, especially with neighboring countries, in prosecution. The seminar included a round table on the fight against smuggling routes in the Calaisis and Alpes-Maritimes, and a second round table on European judicial cooperation in combating migrant smuggling. The seminar thus promoted prosecution, and international cooperation in prosecution, of human traffickers.

On 27 September 2017, several members of the National Assembly introduced Legislative Proposal 200, which would increase the penalty for those convicted of migrant smuggling to be equal to those convicted of human trafficking, as they are linked. Raising the penalty against those who in effect traffic humans promotes the effectiveness of their prosecution.

On 14 November 2017, France requested an urgent United Nations Security Council meeting to address the sale of migrants in Libya, suggesting sanctions as a possible measure. Such attention and potential sanctions could promote the prosecution of the traffickers in Libya.

On 23 November 2017, a Senate Finance Committee report stated that under a draft budget for 2018, funds for the prevention and fight against prostitution and trafficking in human beings would be decreased by EUR 1.5 million compared to 2017. This would greatly decrease France’s capacity to promote the prosecution of human traffickers.

On 30 November 2017, the Government of France urged for the prosecution of human trafficking perpetrators in Libya. In a daily press briefing, Jean-Yves Le Drian, Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, said that France “calls for an end to impunity in Libya and supports the use of individual sanctions and the international criminal courts to prosecute individuals guilty of human trafficking and migrant smuggling.”

France has taken steps to promote and effectively prosecute those engaged in human trafficking or exploitation, both domestically and internationally.

Thus, France receives a score of +1.

**Analyst: Miriam Lustig**

**Germany: +1**

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 1 July 2017, the government of Germany implemented a new prostitution law to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Under the new Prostitution Protection Act, anyone attempting to open commercial premises for prostitution will undergo checks in attempts to crack down on the involvement of traffickers and criminals. The German Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth praised the measures of the new law, saying trafficking of women and sexual abuse of minors “will be combated through the criminal law system and other repressive measures.” The new prostitution law in Germany aims to create a legislative basis for guaranteeing contractual working conditions, protecting the health of prostitutes, and combating crime in prostitution, such as human trafficking, violence against and the exploitation of prostitutes, and procuration.

On 27 August 2017, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi of Egypt signed an agreement on a variety of migration-policies, including measures that aim to fight criminal human trafficking and improve border controls. At a government press conference in Berlin, German government spokesperson, Steffen Seibert declared that one of the goals of this agreement is to combat criminal human trafficking. The agreement aims to fight human trafficking through

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cooperative initiatives, such as “the exchange of information and technical training and expertise.”\textsuperscript{903} As well, Germany will “provide financial support to help Egypt secure its borders and fight human trafficking.”\textsuperscript{904}

In sum, Germany has taken some efforts to tackle human trafficking domestically and internationally. Germany has imposed measures to ensure the safety of those willingly engaged in the prostitution business at home and has worked with countries of origin and transit to help fight criminal trafficking and improve border controls.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analysts: Tyler McMordo and Duja Muhanna}

\textbf{Italy: 0}

Italy has partially complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 30 November 2017, Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano met with the Libyan Deputy Prime Minister Maitig to explore the prospects of political stabilization in Libya, including taking steps to combat human trafficking.\textsuperscript{905} Minister Alfano “confirmed Italy’s commitment to combat illegal trafficking of human beings and referred to the results of the European Union-African Union Summit that took place in the Ivory Coast, affirming that ‘an important step has been taken towards managing the migration emergency in Libya.’”\textsuperscript{906}

On 3 January 2018, Italy’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Angelino Alfano announced that Italy and Niger will soon enhance security cooperation relations, with a focus on “training and supporting the Nigerien forces in charge of controlling the territory and countering trafficking illicit trafficking, starting with trafficking in human beings.”\textsuperscript{907}

On 12 February 2018, Italy’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, Angelino Alfano, made a public address confirming Italy’s commitment to taking action against armed groups trafficking children. Alfano stated the importance of a joint action by governments, non-governmental organizations,
international organizations and civil society organizations to help “eradicate the phenomenon and punish the perpetrators.”

On 23 March 2018, Italy presented its candidature for the United Nations Human Rights Council for the 2019-2021, listing “fight against trafficking in persons” as a priority. The report outlines Italy’s commitment to “strengthen international cooperation for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of those responsible for acts involving the sale of children, child prostitution, child pornography and child sex tourism.” Italy will also “promote with determination international law enforcement and judicial cooperation.”

Italy has promoted action against trafficking in human beings, particularly along migratory routes, which involves combating trafficking networks, and strengthening cooperation with countries of origin and transit, but has not taken steps to support the effective prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking as of yet.

Thus, Italy receives a score of 0.

**Analyst: Duja Mubanna with Jessica Sopher**

**Japan: 0**

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 15 June 2017, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government passed a law penalizing the planning of a range of crimes, including human trafficking. Under the law, human traffickers can be punished for planning and preparing to commit the crime of trafficking in persons. “This law brings a major change to the criminal justice system, which had basically applied penalties only when crimes had actually been committed.” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government framed the law as necessary to ratify the U.N treaty on international organized crime.

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On 29 September 2017, in a speech to the United Nations General Assembly in New York, May said that the UK will “train new specialist investigators and frontline police officers, and develop the expertise of prosecutors so that they can better handle complex cases.”

Prime Minister May announced that the UK will double its aid spending on human trafficking to “GBP 150 million to enable more work in collaboration with source and transit countries.”

May also said that the crime of human trafficking “requires concerted efforts at home, but also internationally, if we are to succeed in combating this insidious crime.”

On 29 September 2017, in a speech to the United Nations, Ambassador Jonathan Allen, reiterated the UK’s commitment to eradicate human trafficking and exploitation, as adopted in the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 11 July 2017, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government accepted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, Human Trafficking Protocol and the Migrant Smuggling Protocol. Japan became the 188th country to accept this convention in an effort to further strengthen cooperation with the international community in combating organised crime. The treaties came into force on 10 August 2017.

Japan has strengthened its legislation and promoted effective prosecution to deal with human trafficking crimes, but its efforts have remained domestic.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analysts: Duja Muhanna with Tasmiyah Randere

enforcement and criminal justice systems “need specialist capabilities.”

In order to deliver on the commitment to prosecute human trafficking perpetrators, Allen stated that the UK is investing “over GBP11 million in the police and training over 300 new specialist investigators.”

Allen also urged all UN members to stand together to put an end to human trafficking.

On 28 November 2017, in a speech to the United Nations, Ambassador Jonathan Allen said that the UK will support and work alongside Libya to bring to account those responsible for the abhorrent crimes of modern slavery and human trafficking.

Allen “welcomed the announcement by the Government of National Accord of Libya of an immediate investigation into this matter and its commitment to ensure that those involved are brought to justice.” He also encouraged all members “to continue to work with Libyan authorities in pursuing allegations of human rights abuses to ensure that those individuals responsible are held to account.”

On 21 February 2018, the UK’s Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) hosted an international summit of prosecutors where experts from key countries discussed how to hold those responsible for human trafficking into account.

Jeremy Wright, Attorney General for England and Wales, said: “tackling modern slavery is a top priority for this Government and the UK is leading the fight internationally. Prosecutions are increasing year on year, but there is more to do. This summit is a step forward in helping us establish a strong, active international network of prosecutors to help tackle these serious crimes.”

The CPS works closely with partners in the criminal justice system both in the UK and overseas to ensure the robust prosecution of human trafficking offenses and is “currently..."
participating in 22 Joint Investigation Teams with six other nations, to ensure a coordinated approach to individual investigations and prosecutions across countries.\textsuperscript{932}

The United Kingdom has increased its efforts to train prosecutors, strengthen law enforcement, and fund measures to tackle human trafficking and bring perpetrators to justice, both domestically and internationally.

Thus, the UK receives a score of +1.

\textit{Analyst: Duja Muhanna}

**United States: 0**

The United States has partially complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 15 June 2017, the Department of State Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (TIP) and the government of Peru signed a four-year Child Protection Compact (CPC) Partnership plan that will “build on existing efforts to prosecute and punish perpetrators of child trafficking”\textsuperscript{933} and other efforts to combat trafficking of children. The agreement “facilitates a planned TIP Office investment of USD 5 million in U.S. foreign assistance in support of the partnership.”\textsuperscript{934} The goal of the partnership is to “improve the quality of victim-centred investigations and increase the number of effective prosecutions and convictions of child trafficking cases.”\textsuperscript{935} In order to achieve these goals, the U.S. and Peru will cooperate to: 1) “strengthen the coordination between justice system officials and victim service providers on implementation of multi-sectoral protocols for child trafficking cases; and 2) improve technical capacity for effective investigations and prosecutions and develop methods that will enable effective, adequate, and timely judicial processes and sentencing in trafficking cases.”\textsuperscript{936}

On 27 June 2017, at the 2017 TIP Report Launch Ceremony, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the State Department developed the TIP report to assess how governments around the world are taking action to expose human trafficking networks and hold their operators and their accomplices accountable.\textsuperscript{937} “The focus of this year’s report is government’s responsibilities under the Palermo
Protocol to criminalize human trafficking of all forms and to prosecute offenders."938 Tillerson encouraged the 17 countries that are not a part of the international Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons to “reconsider their position and to join the other countries who have made that commitment.”939

On 14 September 2017, U.S Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced a USD 25 million award to the Global Fund to End Modern Slavery for programs to tackle human trafficking.940 The funding will be invested in projects over the next three years in global anti-trafficking projects, including projects that seek to ensure the prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking.941

On 19 October 2017, the U.S. Embassy in Manila and the Philippines Department of Justice Inter-Agency Council Against Trafficking in Persons (IACAT) announced the launch of activities to combat trafficking and sexual exploitation of children in the Philippines under the U.S.-Philippines CPC Partnership program.942 The TIP Office awarded the International Justice Mission (IJM) and the Salvation Army World Service Office, two implementing partners to the CPC, “USD3.5 million to support the partnerships objectives.”943 The IJM and the Salvation Army World Service Office “have begun working collaboratively with the government of the Philippines and other civil society organizations to support the government’s efforts to investigate, prosecute, and convict child traffickers.”944 The IJM will build on its model for investigation and prosecution of online sexual exploitation with the Philippine government, showing its commitment to strengthening existing legislation against trafficking.945 “Ending the threat of child trafficking is a priority for our government and we are committed to further enhancing interagency coordination to investigate and prosecute this crime and expand comprehensive services for child trafficking victims through this Partnership,” commented Darlene Pajarito, Executive Director of the Department of Justice’s IACAT.946

On 25 October 2017, the TIP Office pledged USD 5 million to support the CPC Partnership program, which aims to support Ghana’s capacity to investigate and hold perpetrators of child trafficking criminally accountable.947 The funds will support “the CPC Partnership’s goals and objectives, which include enhancing Ghana’s capacity to investigate, prosecute, and convict child trafficking criminals.”948

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traffickers.” The CPC Partnership, signed in Accra in June 2015, outlines the commitment between Ghana and the United States of America “to work collaboratively to enhance the protection of Ghanaian children and hold traffickers accountable for their crimes through arrests, prosecutions, and convictions.”

On 30 November 2017, the United States chaired a trilateral meeting on human trafficking in Washington DC, between Mexico, the United States and Canada. The U.S. underscored its commitment to work in partnership with Mexico and Canada to combat human trafficking; including sharing best practices and tools, advancing shared goals, and enhancing prosecution efforts.

On 13 February 2018, the Department of State hosted Cuban delegates in a bilateral meeting on efforts to combat trafficking in persons, including prosecuting traffickers.

On 14 February 2018, as part of the U.S.-Cuba Law Enforcement Dialogue, the Department of Homeland Security hosted a technical exchange on trafficking in persons. The exchange discussed “best practices on investigations and prosecutions, human trafficking trends in the region, and potential areas of coordination to fight the scourge of trafficking, which threatens national security and public health and safety in both countries.”

The US made efforts to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective prosecution of those engaged in human trafficking, particularly through their CPC Partnership programs with the Philippines, Ghana, and Peru, which promote efforts to prosecute child traffickers. However, a lack of domestic action means that the United States has only partially complied with its commitment.

Thus, the United States received a score of 0.

Analysts: Duja Mubanna and Justin Liu

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to promote and facilitate cooperation to help ensure the effective and timely prosecution of those engaged — at any level — in human trafficking and exploitation, both domestically and internationally, including cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination and their respective law enforcement agencies.

On 20 September 2017, the European Union and the United Nations launched a EUR 500 million Spotlight Initiative to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, including human


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On 27 September 2017, at the High Level Meeting on the appraisal for the Global Plans for Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, Joanne Adamson, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations, addressed the EU commitment to implement the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, including the requirement to prosecute perpetrators.

In her speech, Adamson spoke about the continued need to promote efforts to prosecute those engaged in human trafficking. “We must also ensure accountability to perpetrators. It is the traffickers that should be punished by the law, not the victims,” Adamson said. She also called for more cooperation between countries of origin, transit and destination, to combat trafficking in persons. The UN Global Plan of Action is considered an essential framework for joint action to prevent, protect, and prosecute trafficking in persons.

On 21 November 2017, at the UN, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation Joanne Adamson emphasized the EU’s commitment to renew and invigorate efforts to implement a legal framework to combat trafficking in persons. She called on the international community to “investigate, prosecute and convict the perpetrators of these crimes and put an end to their trafficking and sexual exploitation.” The Spotlight Initiative will “deploy large scale investments in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Pacific and the Caribbean,” aimed at strengthening legislative frameworks, and other preventative measures to eliminate violence against women and girls.


impunity.” She also said the EU will continue to cooperate with its international partners with the goal of eliminating trafficking in those countries experiencing conflict.

On 23 November 2017, Interpol reported that an international mission carried out under the aegis of the Sahel project, a joint initiative of the EU, France and Germany which targets organized crime groups behind human trafficking across the Sahel region, led to the arrest of 40 human traffickers. “The suspected traffickers are to face prosecution for offences including human trafficking, forced labour and child exploitation.” Ensuring the security and stability of the Sahel region, which includes the countries of Senegal, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger, is a key priority for the European Union. The EU provides substantial aid to the region and works closely with Interpol, the world’s largest international police organization, to address security challenges facing the Sahel region, such as human trafficking.

On 4 December 2017, the European Commission identified human trafficking prosecutions as a key area that requires immediate action from the EU in a Communication entitled, “Reporting on the Follow-Up to the EU Strategy towards Eradication of Trafficking in Human Beings and Identifying Further Concrete Action.” The communication states that the European Commission, as of 2018, will “encourage and assist Member States to make investigations and prosecution more effective through capacity building, development of tools, information exchange, sharing best practice, law enforcement and judicial cooperation, including promoting the setting up of Joint Investigation Teams both within the EU and with non-EU countries.” The European Commission will monitor human trafficking investigations and prosecutions along with other anti-trafficking actions set out in

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The European Union has promoted the urgent need to prosecute human trafficking perpetrators and has funded global programs and supported international missions to combat human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Thus, the EU receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Duja Mubanna