

53rd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

**Joint dialogue on addressing violence against women through legal reform
4 March 2009**

decade. Participants expressed support for this review. Since the adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Crime, and other instruments, many countries had adopted specific anti-trafficking legislation, including amendments to their penal codes, comprehensive anti-trafficking acts, child anti-trafficking laws, and provisions in immigration laws. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women provided a means of redress for victims/survivors of violence against women in States parties. Based on the experiences of many countries, a United Nations expert group meeting organized by the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had developed a model framework for legislation on violence against women

9. Participants highlighted the importance of including provisions related to implementation in the law itself. Institutional mechanisms such as Task Forces should be established in law to monitor implementation, and the law should establish a budget to support implementation. Legislation should also provide for the training of all relevant officials and have provisions to hold officials accountable, especially for lack of compliance with the law.

10. Participants noted that, while many countries had strengthened their legal frameworks to combat trafficking in persons, there was a pressing need for the systematic implementation of those laws in order to effectively reduce and prevent trafficking, punish the traffickers and protect the victims. Participants also emphasized that national legislation should address trafficking both across borders and within a country.

11. Lessons learned in the application of existing anti-trafficking legislation should be taken into account in further legal reform efforts. For example, there was a need to ensure greater clarity and consistency in provisions granting residence permits to victims of trafficking, and such permits and access to services should not be dependent on the victim's willingness to participate in criminal proceedings. Recovery and reflection