

**Statement of the UNODC Executive Director
Event with ICAT and UNICEF to mark World Day against Trafficking in
Persons, New York, 30 July 2018**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for joining us on World Day against Trafficking in Persons.

UNODC is marking this important day around the world. Therefore, events in Vienna prevent me from being able to join you in New York in person.

I would like to thank our partners in organizing this event, the Group of Friends United Against Human Trafficking and UNICEF, the 2018 Chair of ICAT, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons.

The focus of the 2018 World Day is on responding to the trafficking of children and young people.

Protecting the most vulnerable among us has become ever more important in the face of humanitarian crises and armed conflict. Vulnerabilities are further increased when children and young people are on the move, and may be separated from their families.

Children and young people are also at risk online, with traffickers misusing the Internet and new technologies to broaden their reach.

Fighting human trafficking, with responses that take to heart the best interests of children and young people, requires coordination and cooperation.

UNODC is helping to strengthen such action through ICAT, which brings together twenty-three UN and other international and regional partners.

Today, ICAT has launched a new issue brief on confronting trafficking in children, with information on patterns and risk factors, along with recommendations on how to prevent child trafficking, as well as identify and protect victims.

UNODC provides comprehensive support to implement these recommendations using the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol.

Through the Blue Heart Campaign, UNODC is also raising public awareness of these issues and the plight of trafficking victims, almost a third of whom are children.

Moreover, UNODC is helping to ensure that child victims can become survivors through the UN Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking.

We are also working with private sector and civil society partners to clamp down on cybercrime, to prevent and counter trafficking, abuse and exploitation of children through the Internet.

Ladies and gentlemen,

We can and must do more to stop human traffickers and protect all children, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Let us take this opportunity on World Day against Trafficking in Persons to further strengthen partnerships and seek solutions. Thank you.