



THE PRESIDENT  
OF THE  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

19 March 2008

Excellency,

Following the initiative by Member States (document A/62/640), I will be convening an informal General Assembly thematic debate on human trafficking on 3 June 2008 at United Nations Headquarters, New York.

The General Assembly thematic debate will address ways forward in the global fight against trafficking. It will build upon the results of the Vienna Forum held from 13 to 15 February 2008, and of other initiatives and best practices worldwide on preventing and prosecuting trafficking, and protecting its victims. It will make proposals to improve cooperation and coordination of actions on combating trafficking in persons.

The United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and myself will address the event. The debate will consist of two informal interactive panel discussions. The morning panel will focus on "*Enhancing multilateral cooperation to prevent trafficking in persons*" and the afternoon panel on "*Protecting victims of trafficking and cross-border cooperation in prosecuting traffickers in persons.*" A President's summary will be prepared as the outcome document of the thematic debate.

The panels will bring together Member States and representatives from the private sector, civil society, law enforcement, the media, United Nations system and other international organizations to promote partnerships and to consider the approach the UN system might take to most effectively address human trafficking.

Delegations are encouraged to engage in an open and interactive discussion with panelists, special guests, as well as representatives of civil society and non-governmental organizations. There will be no established list of speakers and interventions will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. For your information, please find attached a background paper which should serve as a substantive input to this thematic debate. A detailed program of the event will follow in due time.

I look forward to your cooperation and personal participation.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Srgjan Kerim', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Srgjan Kerim

*All Permanent Representatives and  
Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York*