Progress Report

II WORK PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE
2015 - 2018

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PROGRESS REPORT

II WORK PLAN AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE 2015-2018

February 2019

Washington, D.C.

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EXECUTIVE
SUMMARY

The Progress Report was prepared by systematizing, processing and analyzing the responses sent by 33 Member States of the Organization of American States (out of a total of 34 active Member States) to a questionnaire prepared by the Department of Public Security of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security, pursuant to mandate number 11, Section VI of the Second Work Plan Against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018.

The questionnaire was sent on October 20, 2016 and the deadline to submit responses was set at December 14, of that same year. Despite having extended the deadline until February 28, 2017, questionnaires were received until November of 2017. A preliminary version of the Report was presented at the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons held on March 12-13, 2018 in Washington D.C. Three Member States: Argentina, Mexico, and the United States submitted comments to the preliminary version which were taken into account in the final drafting of the Report.

The Report is composed of seven sections: National Authority; Legislation, Policies and Plans; Characterization of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons; Prosecution/Combating and Punishing the Crime; Information Systems; and Gender Perspective. It also includes a section of Final Comments followed by a series of Appendixes that provide additional resources of information. These 13 inventories where elaborated from the systematization of the "assets" informed by countries through the questionnaires and evidence the prolific reservoir of tools and instruments developed thus far.

In most countries, the National Authority has been configured as a collegiate and inter-agency body, comprised of representatives from a number of State entities (furthermore, some countries even include the participation of civil society organizations). This format would be conducive to understand and approach human trafficking from a comprehensive, cross-cutting and multidimensional perspective encompassing the "3 Ps" outlined in the Palermo Convention: prevention, prosecution and protection.

Legislative (legal definition of the crime of trafficking in persons and comprehensive laws), and programmatic (national policies and plans) frameworks exist in all countries. In the last 15 years, the region has witnessed a positive trend toward the criminalization of trafficking in persons as a specific crime, by passing laws that amended the respective Criminal Codes or approving comprehensive laws that included legal definitions of this crime. The building of a legal framework, focused on trafficking in persons, must be considered an important achievement for the region. Likewise, at the time of preparing this report, it was possible to confirm that 14 national plans still remained in effect whereas 9 were coming to an end. Of these 9, it was possible to verify the existence of a new plan in 4 cases.

There are differences in the way that countries identify vulnerable populations, describe vulnerable regions and record victims' profiles. Regarding victims, some only mentioned the victims of the reporting

country; others only referred to victims of other nationalities; few mentioned both types of victim. The two variables widely used to characterize victims were: sex (female and male), and age. A similar situation is also evident in regards to trafficking flows. The majority of countries mentioned intra-regional trafficking (between the countries of the Americas) or inter-regional (international, i.e. between the Americas and other regions of the world), and few of them addressed internal or domestic trafficking. Another reporting "bias" was evident in the emphasis placed by countries on trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation purposes. Few countries also referred to trafficking for forced labor or services. Human trafficking for other exploitation purposes, such as organ removal or begging, were not taken into consideration. This imbalance invites for a regional effort to shed light and address these other types of exploitation.

Largely as a result of the questionnaire design, countries did not provide information on traffickers (profile, type of organization to which they belong, modus operandi, among other variables). This information gap should also be addressed in the next regional information gathering exercise on human trafficking.

Besides a legal framework focusing on trafficking in persons, 21 countries have made progress in establishing institutional frameworks specifically oriented towards the investigation, prosecution and punishment of trafficking in persons. These countries reported on the existence of specialized units in at least three areas: police, prosecutor's office and courts. The specialized institutional framework has been accompanied by the creation and training of special teams and the adoption of investigation techniques. Among the available investigation strategies, the most mentioned by countries was the proactive one.

The main instrument or channel used for victim assistance and reporting human trafficking crimes is telephone lines. As a result of the systematization of information received through the questionnaires, it is important to highlight that 13 countries have activated telephone lines exclusive for human trafficking. At least 6 characteristics were identified as fundamental for these types of telephone lines: free, anonymous, easy to remember, staffed by specialized personnel, connected with other services to facilitate referral, and multilingual. In only one country it was possible to verify the presence of 5 of the 6 mentioned characteristics. The transnationalization of human trafficking opens the door to think about the possibility of establishing a unique telephone number at regional level that, regardless of where the victim or complainant is located, it may be directly associated to the crime of human trafficking.

At least 20 countries reported on the existence of standardized protocols for the identification, assistance, protection and referral of victims. There is evidence of a rich and abundant production of protocols but it is necessary to make an additional effort to know if these protocols are applied, how and what results and impact they have on the lives of the victims.

With regard to the gathering, recording, processing, and analysis of

information on human trafficking, it was possible to identify four different modalities. Currently, most countries are placed in the fourth modality, characterized as the use of information systems already installed in police institutions and prosecutor general's offices or public ministries (and other institutions) to report crimes, including the crime of trafficking in persons. This current situation opens a window of opportunity to improve, standardize and focus the information gathering, processing and analysis systems on the specific crime of human trafficking and its different purposes of exploitation.

18 countries appear to have incorporated a gender perspective in the design and implementation of their national policies or plans. It is worth asking what it means and how a gender perspective can be developed in the context of trafficking in persons. This means there is some scope for action to design a series of guidelines and indicators that could steer the incorporation of a gender perspective when addressing human trafficking in a comprehensive and cross-cutting manner.

This report evidences the importance of having instruments at the hemispheric level, such as the Work Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Within the framework of this Plan, this hemispheric exercise made it possible to take stock of the achievements and progress made by the countries and also, to identify tools, best practices and valuable experiences to share and exchange. Additionally, it facilitated the identification of pending areas and issues, gaps and needs, and even possible lines of action for the future.

INTRODUCTION

The Fourth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons was held in Brasilia, Brazil, on December 4 and 5, 2014. During the third plenary session, the OAS member states adopted the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018 (OEA/Ser.K/XXXIX.4, RTP-IV/doc.4/14 rev. 1). In addition to containing a series of recommendations and instructions for preventing, combating, and punishing trafficking in persons, and for assisting and protecting its victims, this Work Plan constitutes a frame of reference to guide the actions of the OAS member states and the General Secretariat as they seek to address trafficking in persons in the Western Hemisphere.

Thus, Article 11 of Section VI of the Second Work Plan requests that the OAS General Secretariat: "Publish reports every two years based on the reports that the member states will present using the Table of Suggested Indicators in order to follow up on progress in implementing the Plan." Accordingly, and pursuant to that mandate, the Department of Public Security (DPS) of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security designed an information gathering tool that would enable member states to disclose progress made in dealing with trafficking in persons in their respective countries, based on the indicators established in the Second Work Plan.

The tool used was a questionnaire containing 51 questions directly related to the indicators and a final section for singling out the practices that the countries themselves had identified as promising. The questions were divided into eight sections, as follows:

- Introductory Part: National Authorities and Points of Contact
- Section A: Legislation, Policies, and Programs
- Section B: Advocacy
- Section C: Training
- Section D: Cooperation
- Section E: Information Systems
- Section F: Victim Protection and Assistance[1]
- Section G: Best Practices in Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons

The Report that follows is the product of joint work by the Information and Knowledge Section of the Secretariat for Multidimensional Security and the Department of Public Security, in cooperation with the Department against Transnational Organized Crime. It is based on the compilation, systematization, processing, and analysis of information provided by 33 OAS member states (out of a total of 34 active member states) in 2016 and 2017. The Report also incorporated the changes submitted by three delegations—Argentina, Mexico, and the United States—after the presentation of a preliminary version during the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons. This meeting was held at the headquarters of the Organization of American States, in Washington, DC, on March 12-13, 2018. Representatives from 22 of the 34 countries participated in the high-level meeting.

Our special thanks go to the permanent missions of the OAS member states for the arrangements they made to ensure that the questionnaire was filled in and the requisite information compiled. It is also important to underscore the key part played by national authorities who took the time and trouble to answer the questions put to them in the questionnaire. The answers provided constituted the key input needed for this Report. It is exercises such as these that enable the region to learn from its own experience, take stock of where it stands and of what it has achieved, what remains to be done, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

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1   The Spanish version of the questionnaire included the word Identification in the title of Section F however, in the English version the Section refers to Victim Protection and Assistance, dropping the word Identification.

METHODOLOGY

The methodological aspects of this report can be divided into three parts. The first has to do with the methodology, or working procedures, used to send out, follow up on, and receive the questionnaires. The second relates to the type of questionnaire used; and the third regards the steps taken to process and analyze the answers and draw up the Report.

First Part: Sending out, following up on, and collecting the questionnaires

The countries were notified of this regional exercise via Note Verbale on October 20, 2016, when they were given the link to the questionnaire on the SurveyMonkey Online Surveys Platform and a deadline for delivering answers by December 14. A reminder was sent out on December 1 and it was decided to extend the deadline to February 28, 2017. The questionnaires were received between then and, roughly, November 2017. Follow-up was done via e-mails and phone calls from the Department of Public Security. The volume of the response amply justified the extension of the deadline: 33 of the 34 questionnaires sent out were filled in and returned.

A key factor explaining the large number of replies was the identification of the focal points in each National Authority responsible for trafficking issues and having them reply to the questionnaire. It is also worth mentioning that countries reporting difficulties with accessing the questionnaire on SurveyMonkey were sent a Word version of it instead.

The questionnaire reception process was not accompanied by any verification of the information stage, which would have meant sending out requests for clarification or for more complete answers. Note has been taken of these methodological aspects so that they can be taken into account in the next regional exercise.

Second Part: Design of the questionnaire

The tool used to gather official information was a questionnaire comprised of 51 open questions, divided into seven sections; and a section called "Best Practices," in which answers to 11 questions are required to report each practice: two closed and nine open.

There was no validation or pilot test session for the questionnaire to test whether it would be useful and make any necessary adjustments. Once again, note has been taken of these two methodological aspects so as to bear them in mind for future versions of the exercise.

Third Part: Processing and analysis of the replies as input for the Report

Designing an information-gathering tool made up of open questions meant that the filled-in questionnaires received would vary in content and size, some being more detailed than others. The shortest were about 10 pages long, the most lengthy approximately 40.

The open questions triggered replies containing a wealth of – and highly diverse – empirical information. An attempt was made to quantify some of the responses; hence the figures found in some sections of the Report. An effort was also made to verify the information sent in,

whenever it was deemed relevant for the Report, by conducting on-line research, as well as to complete it, if necessary, in order to be able to make comparisons among countries using the same analytical variables. Diagrams are also used throughout the Report in an attempt to illustrate the conceptualization or systematization of certain facets of trafficking in persons that emerged from the processing and analysis of the information remitted by the countries.

The preliminary version of the Report was shared with the member states at the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons held on March 12-13, 2018 in Washington, DC. Following this presentation, the countries had the opportunity to review and confirm the information, and to submit the necessary changes and adjustments to adequately and reliably reflect the situation of each country with respect to the degree of implementation of the Second Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons in the Western Hemisphere 2015-2018. Three member states, Argentina, Mexico, and the United States, submitted comments on the preliminary version circulated in March 2018. This document was prepared by incorporating those changes, resulting in the final version of the progress report.

PRESENTATION

This Report consists of seven sections containing content and analysis, plus a closing section. The sections are numbered and entitled as follows:

- Section A: National Authority
- Section B: Laws, Policies, and Plans
- Section C: Distinctive Features (legal characterization) of the Crime
- Section D: Combating and Punishing the Crime
- Section E: Victim Assistance and Protection
- Section F: Information Systems
- Section G: Gender Perspective
- Final Comments Section
- Appendices on Information Resources

Sections F and G may be regarded as "cross-cutting" in the sense that the gathering and use of information apply to all levels, areas, and stages of trafficking, as does the application of a gender perspective.

The Report ends with a Final Comments Section, which attempts to provide a series of general observations, highlight certain aspects, and propose possible paths to be pursued in future work.

In addition, the Report provides its readers and, in particular, the member states, with a series of appendices detailing Information Resources that resulted from the systematization of existing and available resources on trafficking compiled by the countries themselves. This repository of information is an attempt to approximate to the vast store of information on the subject that already exists in the region, with a view to facilitating the exchange of experiences and knowledge and fostering learning processes within and among countries.

The various Sections in the Report do not follow either the order or layout proposed for the questionnaire. In part, this is because not all sections of the questionnaire were used to draw up the Report. The main reason for that is the (open question) design of the questionnaire, which made it impossible to systematize the countries' replies for comparative purposes. The idea is that, by using the organizational structure proposed for this Report, it will be easier to highlight certain issues that might have been sidelined or downplayed had we kept to the original structure used for the questionnaire. Three of those now highlighted issues are: Legal Characterization of the Crime, Combating and Punishing the Crime, and Gender Perspective.

SECTION A:
National Authority

This first Section of the Report focuses on the countries' replies regarding their National Anti-Trafficking Authorities.

The first distinction to be made is between countries in which the National Authority is headed one institution/person and those in which it is headed by a body comprising multiple institutions.

Diagram 1 illustrates how currently most countries in the region have opted for a pluralist, multidimensional, and interdisciplinary institutional framework to address the crime of trafficking in persons.

For structuring purposes in this first Section of the Report, the institutional framework chosen by the five-country group made up of Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Venezuela will be grouped under the "sole authority" model. At the same time, the term "collegiate authority" will be used to refer to the multi-or inter-agency institutional "model",[2] chosen by most of the 28 countries.

Diagram 1

Institutional arrangements for addressing trafficking in persons

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

Dominica
Grenada
Guatemala
Saint Kitts
& Nevis
Venezuela

A&B, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, DR, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, St. V & the G, St. L, Suriname, Uruguay, U.S.

The high prevalence of this second institutional arrangement among OAS member states may be considered a positive outcome. First, because of the key functions it performs, including: designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating some key public policy instruments, including a policy/program/plan/strategy; coordinating and creating synergies between efforts and available resources aimed at delivering a coordinated and comprehensive response to the crime of trafficking; among other major functions. Thanks to this, they can be regarded as crosscutting mechanisms or areas for steering, articulating, coordinating, and monitoring trafficking issues.

Second, given the complexity, cross-cutting nature, and transnationalization of trafficking in persons, a comprehensive and coordinated institutional response, combining inputs from different actors, perspectives, and resources, appears to be the right way to go, even though it poses challenges.

Regarding the dichotomy referred to earlier, it is important to clarify that neither framework is a "pure" model and that in practice, for numerous political, institutional, administrative, leadership, and other reasons, there may be shifts to the "middle", triggering "hybrid" modi operandi. Two examples may serve to illustrate this.

2   These terms will be used interchangeably throughout this Report, along with the following: inter-ministerial, inter-secretarial and inter-agency.

In Guatemala, Legislative Decree No 9-2009, issued by Congress, established the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET), as the oversight body for trafficking, institutionally anchored in the Office of the Vice President and headed by an Executive Secretary appointed by the Vice President. In addition, through Decision ("Acuerdo") No 02-2009, the SVET established the Inter-Agency Commission against Trafficking in Persons (CIT), comprised of representatives of 13 State institutions. The CIT was designed to be an inter-agency advisory body, responsible for generating and formulating initiatives and forging consensus on the best ways to deal with trafficking in persons. This is the reason why Guatemala's anti-trafficking national authority is not considered as a pure version of the "one-person authority" model. [Diagram 2]

Another instance of a hybrid approach developing in response to practical considerations is provided by Argentina. Because Argentina is a federal republic, it requires an institutional design that allows the national government to implement trafficking policies throughout Argentina, without losing sight of the autonomous status of the provinces. The legal framework thus promotes the coordinated intervention of national and provincial bodies, and establishes cooperation mechanisms and intergovernmental and inter-agency spheres of activity. Law No 26.364 of 2008 on Preventing and Punishing Trafficking in Persons and Assistance for Victims established the Federal Council to Combat the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and Provide Protection and Assistance to Victims, as a standing body or institutional action and coordination, anchored organizationally and administratively in the Office of the Chief of Staff. In addition, Law No 26.842 of 2012 provided for the establishment of an Executive Committee for Combating the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and Providing Protection and Assistance to Victims, likewise within the organizational sphere of the Office of the Chief of Staff, but comprised of fewer officials and charged with implementing the National Program for Combating the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and Providing Protection and Assistance to Victims. [Diagram 2]
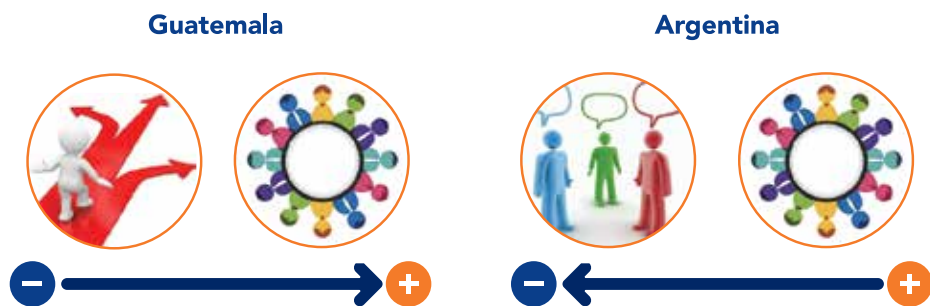
Guatemala   **Argentina**

The Bahamas appears to have adopted a planning and execution binominal approach similar to Argentina's. Pursuant to a Cabinet resolution, in The Bahamas the Inter-Ministry Committee on Trafficking in Persons began operating in 2011. It is the body charged with across-

the-board coordination of all public policy issues related to trafficking in persons. In addition, a National Trafficking in Persons Task Force was established in March 2012. This is actually an operational body for dealing with trafficking cases, both with respect to prevention, detection, and victim assistance activities and for prosecuting alleged traffickers.

The replies sent in by the countries regarding the composition and nature of their national authorities reveal a wealth of institutional arrangements that would be well worth exploring in greater detail and with more methodological rigor in order to grasp how and to what extent the institutional architecture affects efficacy in dealing with trafficking in persons.

[The list of inter-agency bodies drawn up on the basis of the information provided by the countries can be found in Appendix # 1, Information Resources – Inter-Agency Bodies.]

1. Part One: Analysis of the National Authority based on the First Triad

Regardless of the institutional framework chosen for the National Authority, they may be analyzed in according to three dimensions: who presides, approach, and accessibility. [Diagram 3]

Taking the first criterion – **steering or management** – the analysis establishes what institution governs or heads the national authority in charge of trafficking, irrespective of whether that authority is a "sole authority" ("unipersonal") or an inter-agency body. Possible answers may be grouped under two main headings: those that are directed by any of the public entities making up public security systems and those that are not. In this regard, it is worth noting that in 24 of the 33 countries that answered the questionnaire (72.7%), the national authorities responsible for dealing with trafficking in persons are governed by a public institution embedded in a public security system. What is more, more often than not it appears that ministries of the interior, public security or national security exercise leadership at the national level when it comes to trafficking in persons [Figure 1, public security system institutions are shown in blue]. Research should be conducted to ascertain whether ministry of security leadership has an impact on the way in which the crime of trafficking is addressed, for instance by favoring a reactive and confrontational approach (focusing more on the trafficker and the dismantling and prosecution of the illicit activity) to the detriment of crime prevention (by reducing risk factors and transforming the conditions that create vulnerability) and protection/assistance/reintegration of victims.
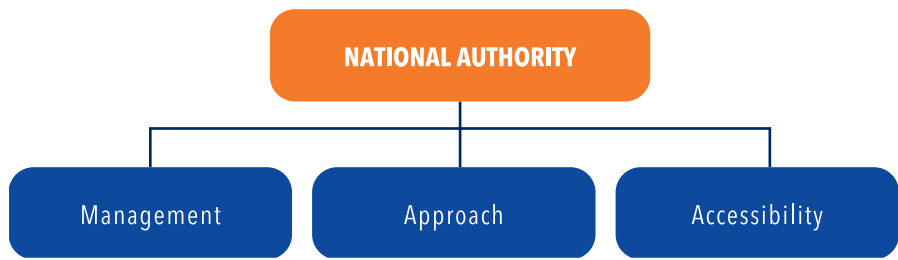
Diagram 3
First Analytical Triad

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS
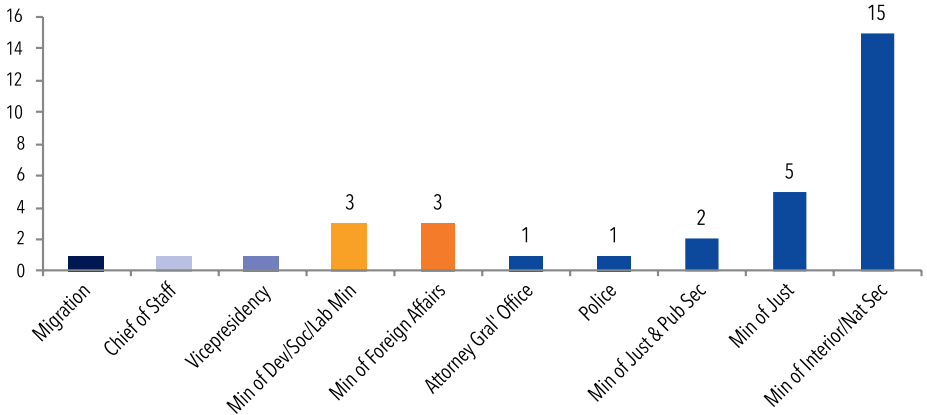
Figure 1
Management

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

Of the public institutions presiding over the National Authority that do not pertain to public security systems, those most commonly cited are Ministries of Foreign Affairs (3) and Ministries of Development (3).

Uruguay is one of the three countries in which the National Authority in trafficking matters is in a Ministry of Social Development. Decree No. 304/15 established the Inter-Agency Round Table for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, i.e., an inter-agency body (or collegiate national authority), and resolved that it should operate as part of the Ministry of Social Development and, in particular, that it should be chaired by the National Women's Institute. Thus, Uruguay is the only country in the region in which the authority responsible for addressing, coordinating, and directing all aspects of trafficking policy is governed by a Women's Institute.

Diagram 4
Spheres of action

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

As regards the second analytical criterion, the idea is to discern – based on the replies provided by the countries themselves – the region's most prevalent and ingrained **approach** to address the trafficking issue. The possibilities are: prevention, prosecution, or protection, or a combination of two or three of them, the latter constituting the "classical" "Three P's" approach. Twenty-five of the 33 countries consider that the actions undertaken by their respective National Authorities encompass all three "P's." Six countries focus on only two components, while two did not answer the question. [Diagram 4]

Here it is important to mention that Canada and the United States champion an approach with a fourth "P", for Partnerships, in addition to Prevention, Prosecution, and Protection.

The third analytical criterion underscores the **accessibility** of information, meaning possibility, ease of access, and opportunity to obtain the information on trafficking in persons without hindering investigations or judicial proceedings, nor placing victims, witnesses, and justice operators at risk. The "indicator" used to measure accessibility was the type of Uniform Resource Locator (URL) provided. This criterion is especially important if the Website is regarded as a platform for:

i. Providing victims and whistleblowers (and other target audiences) with useful and up-to-date information;

ii. Highlighting, reporting, and disseminating activities/ publications/ or progress made;

iii. Sharing experiences and exchanging knowledge;

iv. Accountability, and for strengthening management through transparency.[3]

Of the 33 countries that filled in and returned the questionnaire, 13 (i.e., more than one-third) completed the questionnaire using a "generic" website, which in most cases was directly related to the public institution supervising trafficking issues in the country but not necessarily providing information specifically dealing with trafficking. Ten countries did not provide any website address, while the 10 remaining countries shared a website address specifically dedicated to the issue. That said, among those sites there are major differences in terms of the content they provide and the extent to which they are kept up-to-date. [Figure 2]

[The list of specific websites offering on-line information on trafficking in persons can be found in Appendix # 2, Information Resources – Websites with information about trafficking in persons.]

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3   Another accountability mechanism is the presentation of annual reports with an assessment of what has been done by the national authority with regard to the prevention and prosecution of trafficking, and the detection, assistance, and protection of victims. The United States and Mexico were identified among the countries that have such a mechanism. For the United States, the most recent report on the activities carried out by the various federal entities that deal with trafficking in persons is for the year 2015. The report is available at: https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/attorney-generals-trafficking-persons-report. With respect to Mexico, at the time of this writing, the Inter-secretarial Commission had prepared 4 annual reports: 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.
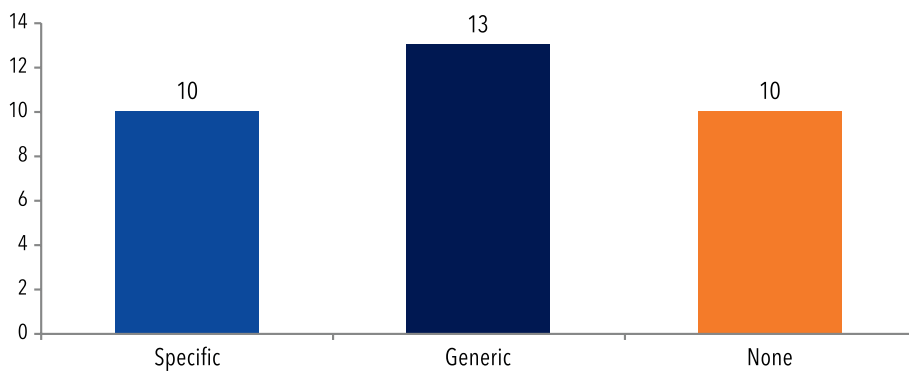
Figure 2
Types of Website

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

2. Part Two: Analysis of the National Authority based on the Second Triad

This second part of the Section temporarily leaves aside the four National Authorities that described themselves as clearly "sole" authorities[4]: Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis[5], and Venezuela.

Following is an analysis of this "sub-group" of 29 countries, based on another set ("triad") of three criteria: [Diagram 5]

i. **Establishment** the instrument of legal/administrative act establishing the national authority;

ii. **Quantity** the number of government organizations comprising them;

iii. **Composition** the type of organizations making up the multi-agency bodies, pertaining only to the State or allowing participation by civil society organizations.

ESTABLISHMENT
Instrument or act establishing the National Authority

QUANTITY
Number of organizations part of the National Authority

COMPOSITION
Type of organizations part of the National Authority

Diagram 5
Second Analytical Triad

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

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4   Guatemala was not included because together with the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET), it also created the Inter-Agency Commission against Trafficking in Persons (CIT).

5   According to the Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act 2008 of Saint Kitts and Nevis, Part V - Miscellaneous Items, Article 21, the Minister may appoint an inter-agency task force to develop and implement a National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. Article 21 also specifies the functions to be performed by the task force. Based on the information provided by the country in its replies to the questionnaire, it appears that the task force has not yet been installed.

The first analytical criterion: **establishment**, seeks to identify the instrument or action through which the inter-agency body was established and installed. The assumption underlying this first criterion is that a body established by law[56] would tend to be more sustainable and more stable over time, even when changes come about in the administration than if it had been established by Executive Decree[67] or by Administrative Decision. [Diagram 6]

Diagram 6
Relationship between instrument and sustainability
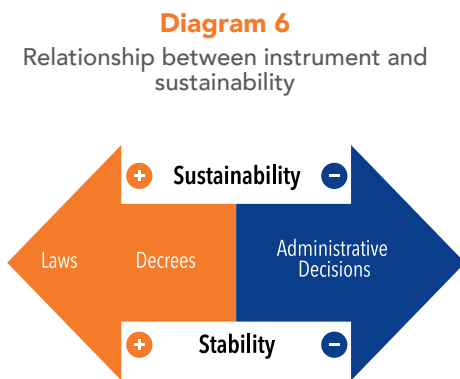
Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

Figure 3:
National Authority establishment, by type of instrument
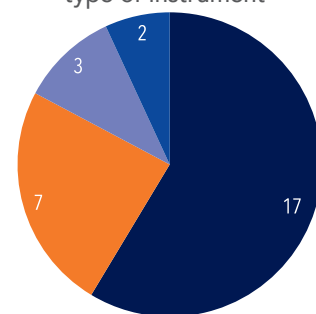
■ Law ■ Decree ■ Adm. Dec. ■ No inf.
Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

It turned out that of the 29 inter-agency bodies described by the countries in their replies to the questionnaires, 17 (58.6%) were the product of a legislative act of some kind. [Figure 3] As argued above, multi-agency institutional arrangements adopted by law should have a better chance of being sustainable over time, particularly when the vote is the outcome of agreements reached by parties. For their part, continuity and stability are key factors helping to ensure that trafficking-related policies/plans, and management are effective.

The second analytical criterion in this triad focuses on the number of public institutions comprising the multi-agency bodies (**quantity**). In this respect, countries can be divided into four groups, according to the following ranges: [Diagram 7]

Diagram 7
Ranges
Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

Figure 4
Distribution of public institutions

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

6	0 ≤ 10
14	11 ≤ 15
7	16 ≤ 20
2	+20
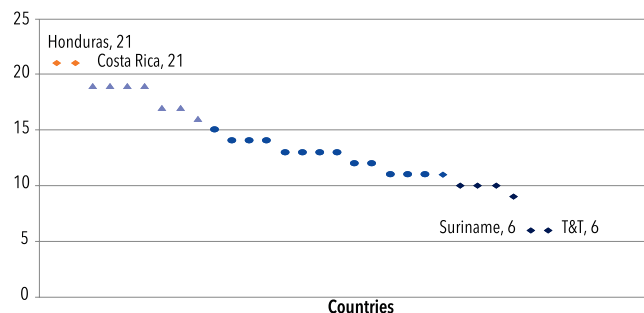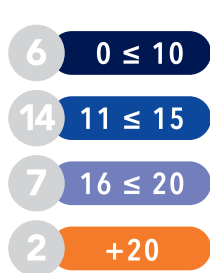
Most countries (14 of the 29) have between 11 and 15 public institutions forming part of their multi-agency bodies (an average of 12.75 institutions

6   Some countries use the term "Decree Law," which is not to be confused with Executive Decree.

7   Some countries also often use the term "Supreme Decree".

and a mode of 13). [Diagram 7, shown in mid blue] Figure 4 shows the distribution by country, based on the number of institutions represented in the multi-agency bodies, by range. The largest number of points is concentrated between the range of 11 and 15.

The "atypical values" would be those at either end of the series. Thus, as Figure 4 shows, the two countries with most public institutions are Honduras (with more than 21 institutions)[8] and Costa Rica (21). Those with the comparatively fewest institutions would be Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago, each of which has six.

With regard to the **composition** of these inter-agency bodies established in 29 of the 33 countries that replied to the questionnaire, an attempt is made to distinguish between those that are "uniform" in the sense of comprising only Government entities and those that might be termed "mixed" because their institutional framework requires the inclusion of nongovernmental or civil society organizations. Based on that suggested classification, 11 of the multi-agency bodies were identified as "uniform" and 18 as what might be called "mixed."

Of those 18 countries, five (Bolivia, Guatemala, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago), did not specify the number of civil society organizations that can participate in the inter-agency bodies. Of the remaining 11, in most countries (10), the number of civil society organizations forming part of inter-agency bodies dealing with trafficking in persons are to be found in the equal to or more than 1 and fewer than 5 ($1 \leq x < 5$) range, with an average of 2.5 organizations. In this case, the "atypical value", as shown in Figure 5, pertains to Brazil, which reported a total of 7 civil society organizations forming part of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking Persons (CONATRAP, by its Spanish acronym).[9]

Figure 5
Number of CSOs in multi-agency bodies, by country

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

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8   Article 8 of Legislative Decree No. 59-2012 establishes the composition of the Inter-Agency Commission against Sexual and Commercial Exploitation and Trafficking in Persons (CICESCT, by its Spanish acronym). The National Congress is shown as item 3 on the list due to the number of committees on the subject but they are not specifically named. The Website provided by the country for the CICESCT www.sdhjgd.gob.hn does not provide that information nor does the congressional Website: http://congresonacional.hn/index.php/comisiones/

9   The National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons (CONATRAP) was established by Decree No. 7.901 of 2013. The actions undertaken by CONATRAP are framed by the National Policy for Combating Trafficking in Persons. Chairing the Committee is the National Secretary for Justice in the Ministry of Justice. The same Decree also established the Tripartite Coordination Office for the National Policy for Combating Trafficking in Persons, comprised of the Ministry of Justice, the Secretariat for Policies for the Advancement of Women, and the Human Rights Secretariat (both secretariats are attached to the Office of the President). Unlike CONATRAP, the Tripartite Coordination Office comprises just public sector entities. It was established to ensure strategic and integrated coordination between the National Policy for Combating Trafficking in Persons and the National Plans for implementing it.

SECTION B: Legislation, Policies, and Plans

1. Inclusion of trafficking in persons issues

Overall, based on the countries' replies, it is fair to say that there have been four main ways in which countries have taken up the issue of trafficking in persons.[10] [Diagram 8 and Figure 6]

Diagram 8
Ways used to incorporate trafficking issues

Figure 6
Incorporation of trafficking issues, by type of instrument

6	Constitution
3	Criminal Code
30	Law
28	National Policies/Plan
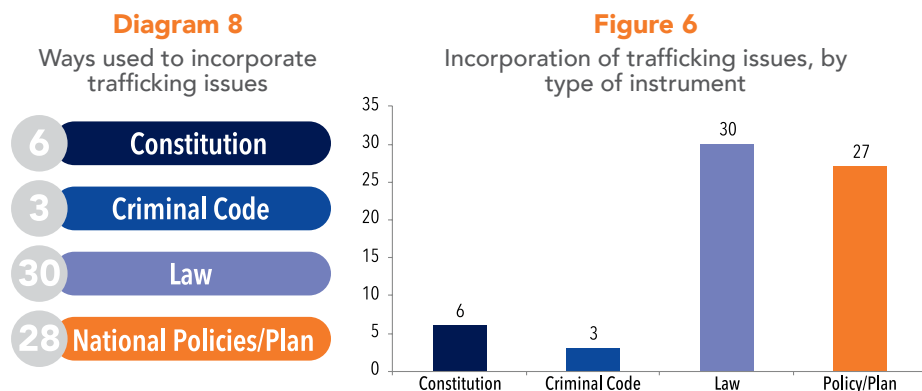
Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

The constitutional amendments option was mentioned by 6 countries: Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Mexico, and Venezuela.

Three countries (Canada, Ecuador, and Suriname) mentioned that they had introduced the topic via [amendments to] the Criminal Code.[11]

The legal instrument most frequently used by countries appears to have been legislation, through two types of laws: one amending the Criminal Code to legally characterize trafficking in persons as a crime and the other not just legally characterizing it but also establishing principles, definitions, bodies (generally speaking an inter-agency body has to be created)[312] and how they should tackle the issue (mention is made of drawing up and implementing a policy and or plan), directives or general guidelines for preventing trafficking, protecting, and attending to victims,[413] the gathering, processing, and analysis of information on trafficking, and other aspects. Thirty countries identified the laws used to introduce the subject in their respective legal systems.

Twenty-eight countries reported developing and implementing a national policy and/or plan as the channel used to introduce the subject. Some countries said they deployed both instruments, whereby the national policy constituted the framework or umbrella for the program, while the national plan provided an operational roadmap for implementing the policy.

Section D of this Report, on Combating and Punishing Trafficking, revisits the issue of the legal characterization of trafficking in persons as a crime, but one of its conclusions, as we can state right now, is that in all 33 countries trafficking in persons has now been legally characterized as a

10 Question 18 of the questionnaire asked countries how they had incorporated trafficking issues.

11 In its reply to Question 18 in the questionnaire, the Dominican Republic mentions its Criminal Code (Law No. 550-14) because Articles 190 and 191 thereof punish procurement (pimping), but it has not been included in this group because as a legally characterized crime trafficking was not directly included in the Code but, rather, through Law No. 137-03.

12 This matter was addressed in Section A of this Report.

13 In some cases, the laws provide for compensation and reintegration for victims and some may make mention of witnesses.

specific offense. In this Section, the emphasis is on analyzing National Policies and/or Plans (or other similar instruments).[14]

2. Specific Plans, Programs, and Strategies in this field

As mentioned earlier, 28 countries reported having at least one policy, program, plan, or national strategy specifically to address the issue of trafficking in persons. In most cases, countries' own laws stipulate how these public policy instruments are to be crafted and, where applicable, implemented. That legislation likewise establishes who is responsible for each of those two tasks. [To see a list of all systematized instruments, see Appendix #3, Information Resources - National Policies and Plans.].

In some countries, including Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, and Peru more than one public policy instrument was identified. Those four countries have not just a national policy providing a kind of overarching programmatic framework, but a national plan as well.

Added to those four countries with a national policy should be Guatemala, which has a Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and Comprehensive Protection for Victims,[15] currently in force, and El Salvador, with its National Policy against Trafficking in Persons. The national policies of Brazil and Peru date back to 2006 and 2015, respectively. In all three cases (i.e., El Salvador, Brazil, and Peru), no mention was made of any date on which the instrument would expire. For the three remaining countries that reported having a national policy, Table 1 shows the period and number of years for which the instrument is in force:

Table 1: Dates/periods for which reported National Policies are/were in effect

Country	Name of the policy	Period in which it was/is in effect	Years in which it was/is in effect
Bolivia	Plurinational Policy to Combat Trafficking in Persons	2013-2017	4
Guatemala	Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and for Comprehensive Protection for Victims	2014-2024	10
Paraguay	National Policy for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons	2010-2019	9

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

The most prevalent instrument is the Plan (mentioned by 21 countries), known variously as a Plan of Action, National Plan, Strategic Plan, and so on.

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14 Some countries use the terms program and strategy.

15 Previously, in Guatemala, Government Decision No. 184-2008 adopted the Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and Comprehensive Protection of Victims and the National Strategic Plan of Action for 2007 to 2017. That Policy was reformulated in 2014.

Apart from the 21 countries that reported having a Plan (whether it is a Plan of Action, a National Plan or a Strategic Plan), Colombia reported on its National Strategy for Combating Trafficking in Persons; Mexico cited its National Program for Preventing, Punishing, and Eradicating Trafficking in Persons Offenses and for Protecting and Assisting the Victims of those Crimes; Suriname mentioned the existence of a Roadmap for Combating Trafficking in Persons: and the United States referred to the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking 2013-2017.[16]

For one of these 25 countries (21 countries that reported having a Plan plus Colombia, Mexico, Suriname and the United States), it was not possible to determine the public policy instrument's period of validity. Twenty-four countries did, on the other hand, specify the period for which their respective national plans (or similar instruments) were/are in effect. As this Report was being prepared, it transpired that 15 such Plans are still in effect. In the nine remaining cases, a new Plan could be discerned in four[17], but not in the other five.[18]

Irrespective of whether national plans (or similar instruments, other than national policies) are currently in effect or not, the average length of time for which they remain in force is 3.4 years and the mode 4. Honduras' national plan, covering six years, is the longest, while Guyana's is the shortest (1 year). [Figure 7]

Figure 7

Distribution of countries by Plan's duration

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires
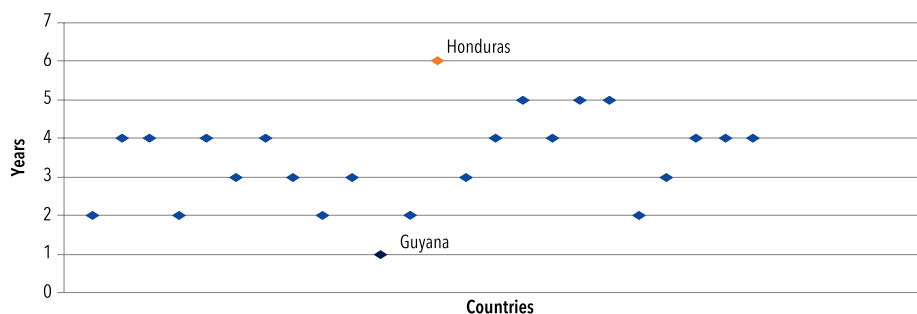
3. Accessibility

Revisiting one of the analytical criteria used in Section A: National Authorities, namely accessibility, this part attempts to give an idea of the availability of the public policy instruments mentioned in the countries' replies. To that end, a search was conducted for policies/plans (or otherwise named public policy instruments used by the countries), whereby only official websites were accepted as a source of the information, particularly the website of the public entity heading the multi-agency body or that operates as the National Authority in each

16 When this report was presented at the Fifth Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, held on March 12-13, 2018, the Argentine delegation reported that it was in the process of developing a National Plan against Trafficking in Persons.

17 Among those with a recent Plan of Action are: Guyana (2017-2018), Haiti (2017-2022), Panama (2017-2022), and Peru (2017-2021).

18 Among those six countries is Canada, which explained that it was in the process of formally evaluating the National Plan of Action. That evaluation would determine the next steps to be taken to foster the Government's efforts to deal with the crime of trafficking in persons.

of the countries. Thus it transpired that of the six countries that said they had a national policy; three such policies could be found online. Furthermore, it was ascertained that those websites were official and related to public institutions directly involved in the subject of trafficking in the country.[19]

Of the 25 countries with a Plan of Action (or similar tool: strategy, program, or roadmap), in 8 cases it proved possible to locate the document referred to by the country on an official website.[20]

[The list of links to National Policies/Plans can be found in Appendix # 4, Information Resources – National Policies/Plans available online.]

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19 In the case of Guatemala, what was found online was the Public Policy against Trafficking in Persons and for Comprehensive Protection of Victims corresponding to 2007-2017, which was the one prior to the policy currently in force. This document was found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Website, available online at: http://www.minex.gob.gt/ADMINPORTAL/Data/DOC/PoliPublicaTRATA2007.pdf

20 In Peru, the plan found on the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights Website was the National Plan against Trafficking in Persons for 2011-2016. Available at: https://www.mininter.gob.pe/sites/default/files/PLAN%20NACIONAL%20CONTRA%20LA%20TRATA%20DE%20PERSONAS%202017-2021.pdf. http://spij.minjus.gob.pe/Graficos/Peru/2011/octubre/19/DS-004-2011-IN.pdf. https://www.mininter.gob.pe/sites/default/files/PLAN NACIONAL CONTRA LA TRATA DE PERSONAS 2017-2021.pdf. In the case of Guyana, the National Plan of Actions to Prevent and Respond to Trafficking in Persons for 2017-2018 was downloaded from the Ministry of Public Security's Website. Available online at: https://mops.gov.gy/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/2017-2018-TIP-Action-Plan.pdf

SECTION C: Characterization of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons[21]

The rationale for proposing and putting this Section together was an attempt to elicit a sense of how the crime of trafficking in persons is legally characterized in the countries of the region, based on a combination of at least two questions in the original questionnaire. One key missing element, in large part due to the design and content of the questionnaire used, is information regarding the traffickers, including their profiles, modi operandi, and the status of proceedings against them. A grasp of such aspects is in turn vital for crafting prevention policies, channeling investigations and criminal proceedings, and providing protection, assistance, and reintegration opportunities for victims of trafficking.

1. Segments of the population vulnerable to trafficking in persons

The inclusion of a discussion about the characteristics of segments of the population vulnerable to the crime of trafficking should not be construed as a way to judge or penalize victims. Rather, it is part of an exercise aimed at understanding the dynamic of the offense and some of the conditions and risk factors it feeds on.

Question 19 of the questionnaire was designed to ascertain which segments of the population in each country are vulnerable to trafficking in persons. Twenty-nine of the 33 countries who filled in and returned the questionnaire claimed to have identified vulnerable population groups, three did not, and one did not answer the question. Here it is worth mentioning that the three countries that did not identify segments of the population vulnerable to trafficking in persons pertain to the Caribbean.

Among the 29 countries answering the question, some did so with greater precision and detail than others. Notable examples of countries providing more complete profiles of the segments of the population vulnerable to trafficking, the type of exploitation, and trafficking flows are: Argentina, the Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay, and the United States. The four countries that used more general terms to describe their vulnerable population groups were Mexico, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. For Mexico and Panama, the most vulnerable segments are "young people"; for Saint Lucia, "women"; and for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, "the poor."

The variables most frequently used by countries, in response to Question 19 of the questionnaire, to characterize victims of trafficking in persons were: age (the most frequently mentioned categories were children, adolescents, and youth) and sex (male or female) (Each received 21 mentions). [Figure 8]

The third most frequently used variable to describe vulnerable segments of the population was socioeconomic level (9), followed by the victims' migration status (both documented and undocumented (8). Six countries mentioned nationality.

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21 This section does not exist in the original questionnaire. It was constructed using the countries' replies to questions 19 (populations vulnerable to trafficking in persons), 38 (areas vulnerable to trafficking in persons), and 41 (principal routes used by traffickers).
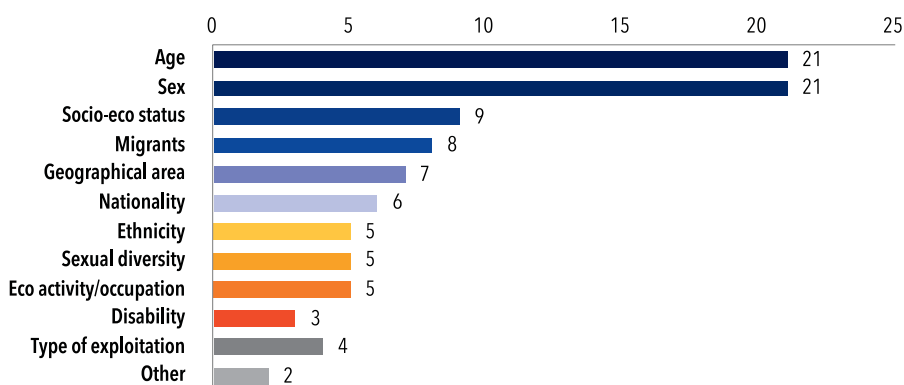
Ethnicity, LGBTI persons, and economic activity (in the case of trafficking for labor purposes) were each mentioned 5 times, as key words for characterizing segments of the population vulnerable to trafficking in persons. It comes as a welcome surprise to find countries able to identify population groups vulnerable to trafficking based on their sexual diversity. Highlighting them is an important step toward adjusting and fine-tuning identification and care strategies to take the specific and particular needs of this sub-segment into account. Also notable is the fact that three countries mentioned disability as a variable in the description of segments of the population vulnerable to trafficking.

A brief comment may be worth making regarding the trafficking flows that could be discerned on the basis of the descriptions of vulnerable segments of the population provided by some countries (taking as a point of reference their position as a reporting country). In the case of 8 of the 28 countries providing some characterization of vulnerable segments of the population, some details were provided that suggested that it was victims of international trafficking who were being referred to. Four countries referred to victims of intra-regional trafficking in persons (within the Americas region). Only four countries made explicit references to internal (domestic or national) trafficking in persons.

2. Most vulnerable areas

An attempt was made to use the answers to Question 38 to discern the areas most vulnerable to trafficking in persons in each of the countries taking part in the exercise.

The variety of ways in which the question was answered and the general nature of the descriptions of the areas most vulnerable to trafficking in persons made it impossible to systematize the information in a meaningful way. In general terms, for the 23 countries that provided some kind of information, that information referred either to political-administrative divisions within the country (11 cases) or to type of area (8).[22] As regards the latter, countries characterized areas in various fashions, as: border, coastal, rural, or with little economic development, but without necessarily stating what areas they were referring to.

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2   Of the four remaining cases in the group of 23, two referred to areas in general terms, another referred to cities and communities, while the fourth referred to "hotspots" within a given city.

Of the 11 countries submitting information on vulnerable areas based on the country's political-administrative divisions, 7 gave the specific name of the subnational units identified as being the most vulnerable. For instance, in the case of Chile, identification is done by region and even divides the regions according to priority into three groups: high-priority regions (6), average-priority regions (2); and regions that are not priorities (8). Some of these territorial sub-units are also border areas or coastal zones, as reported by Guyana: Cayuni-Mazaruni (a region on the border with Brazil), Demerara Mahaica (coastal area), and Barima-Waini (a border area with Venezuela and a coastal zone as well). Argentina, for its part, manages to identify subnational vulnerable areas according to the country's political-administrative divisions and by trafficking purpose: labor or sexual. Peru also manages a fairly detailed identification of departments/provinces/and cities hardest hit by trafficking in persons, based on complaints filed. It also identifies the regions of origin of the victims of trafficking.

Of the 23 countries providing some kind of information to characterize the areas vulnerable to trafficking in persons, only 4 explicitly mention a border area. Bolivia was one of the countries that provided extremely detailed information on the border crossing points (especially with Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay) most vulnerable to trafficking in persons (as both points of origin and of transit).

Of the 8 countries that did not report areas vulnerable to trafficking in persons within their respective countries, it is worth mentioning that 3 identified other continents or other Latin American countries as vulnerable areas and another 3 countries did not answer the question.

A second part of Question 38 was designed to ascertain how the areas most vulnerable to trafficking in persons are identified in the various countries. Of the 23 countries that sent in some kind of information regarding areas most vulnerable to trafficking, 15 mentioned one or more sources of information and the remaining 8 provided no clue as to the sources/instruments used to map out those areas.

With respect to the 15, three types of sources were mentioned: instruments (meaning reports filed, court rulings, official records, and so on); institutions (the police, the prosecutors' office, etc.); and a combination of both (instruments and institutions).

Diagram 9 attempts to provide a visual presentation of the institutions and instruments that countries pointed to as their sources for identifying vulnerable areas. From the Diagram it transpires that the most frequently mentioned institution is the police and reports filed with it is the most frequently cited instrument. Belize and Ecuador mentioned previously investigated cases as one of the sources of information used to identify vulnerable areas.

Hotline
Argentina
Guyana
U.S.

Supervisory Tasks
DR
CESTUR

Labor Inspection Certificates
Argentina

Police
Reports
Investigations
Intelligence
Past cases

Belize
Bolivia
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Guatemala
Guyana
Jamaica
Peru
Uruguay
Venezuela

PPO*
Reports
Investigations
Judicial Rulings

Argentina
Bolivia
Chile
Colombia
Dominican Republic
Guatemala
Peru

Courts
Judicial Rulings

Bolivia
Chile
Guatemala

Diagram 9

Distribution of countries according to institution/instrument used to identify vulnerable areas

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

(*) Apart from the Public Prosecutors' Office (PPO), this category would include the Attorney General's and Prosecutor-General's offices.

In the case of Guyana, investigation and surveillance tasks are conducted jointly by the police and the Mines and Geology Commission, which would suggest that they are directed toward identifying the areas most vulnerable to trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploiting their labor in the mining sector.

In connection with the identification of areas vulnerable to trafficking in persons for labor exploitation purposes, Argentina may also be included. The information collected in that country is taken from labor inspectors' certificates.

Chile, on the other hand, mentioned inter-sectoral inspections coordinated by three institutions: the Police, the Directorate of Labor, and Health Services.

A final example worth citing is the Dominican Republic, where surveillance and supervisory tasks are carried out by the Tourism Security Specialized Unit (CESTUR, for its Spanish acronym), which is dependent of the Ministry of Defense.

3. Most used trafficking routes

Question 41 attempted to identify the principal routes used by traffickers. The way this question was answered varied considerably. Six countries were able to identify points of origin, transit, and destination: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay.

In addition, for each route, Chile specified the ways in which victims were transported (three overland and three by air). Colombia also referred to transportation methods used but more broadly, without specifying the type of route. Thus, overland routes are used to transport victims to Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador; while air transportation is used to move victims into North America, Europe, or Asia.

Another 21 countries provided various types of information with varying degrees of detail, which meant that the replies could not be systematized in such a way as to permit analytical comparisons between countries.

Returning to the matter of trafficking flows, based on the information provided by 18 countries in their replies to this question, it was possible to discern the different levels at which trafficking takes place: national (domestic, or internal); intra-regional (within the Americas, including the Caribbean); or inter-regional (outside the Hemisphere, between the Americas region and other parts of the world). [Diagram 10]

Diagram 10

Distribution of countries by trafficking flows

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

Domestic
Canada
Ecuador
Guyana
Jamaica
Peru
Uruguay
U.S.

Intra-regional
A & B   DR
Argentina   Ecuador
Bahamas   Guyana
Belize   Honduras
Bolivia   Jamaica
Chile   Peru
Colombia   T & T
Dominica   Uruguay

Inter-regional
Chile
Colombia
DR
Jamaica
Uruguay
U.S.
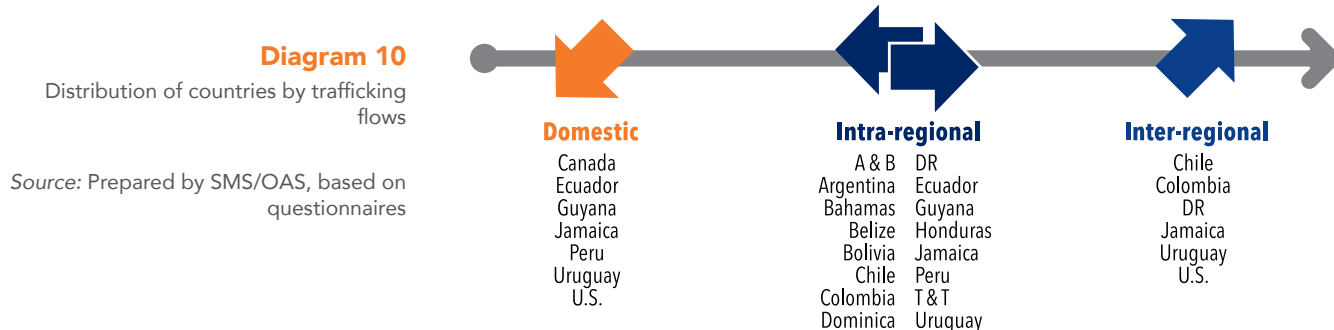
In respect of these three possibilities, only 2 countries (Jamaica and Uruguay) appear to identify internal trafficking routes (within their own country), between countries in the region (intra-regional), and with countries outside the region (inter-regional).

As regards internal (domestic or national) trafficking in persons, apart from Jamaica and Uruguay, 5 additional countries (Canada, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, and the U.S.) were able to identify the routes used for internal trafficking of victims.

Based on the information provided regarding routes, 17 of the 18 countries provided information regarding human trafficking routes that would appear to be intra-regional.

In addition to Jamaica and Uruguay, 4 countries also managed to identify inter-regional routes for trafficking in persons (international trafficking). Europe (Spain and Italy, with two mentions each) and Asia (Korea and the Philippines, with two mentions each) were the two destinations outside the Hemisphere mentioned as countries of destination.

In their replies to this question, 5 countries provided information about diagnostic assessments they had carried out: Three at the national level (Argentina, Bolivia, and Mexico), 1 at the subnational level (focusing on the Peruvian Amazon), and 1 at the subregional level (Uruguay made mention of a Mercosur report). [For a complete list of the references to the aforementioned diagnostic assessments, see Appendix # 5, Information Resource - Diagnostic Assessments.]

SECTION D: Prosecuting/ Combating and Punishing the Crime

1. Legal characterization of trafficking in persons as a crime: instrument and year

Trafficking in persons has been legally characterized as a crime in all 33 countries that replied to the questionnaire. Based on the answers to Question 22 of the questionnaire, (What type of legal instrument was used in the country to criminalize and punish all forms of trafficking in persons?), it proved not only possible to identify the instrument used, but also to establish the year in which the instrument was adopted or entered into force.

Section B on Legislation, Policies, and Plans described the four most common ways in which the subject of trafficking in persons was incorporated into the countries' regulatory and programmatic frameworks. Legislatively, two channels were identified: via the Criminal Code or via laws. Furthermore, two types of law were distinguished: those amending the Criminal Code and comprehensive laws that, in addition to characterizing the offense, provide instruction or general guidelines as to how trafficking in persons is to be addressed in the country. To facilitate a logical presentation of the information and to be able to distinguish between these two legal instruments, the second type will be referred to as a "comprehensive law".

Diagram 11

Paths pursued in order to establish a legal characterization of trafficking in persons

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

Criminal Code
Canada
Ecuador
Suriname

Compre-hensive Laws
26 countries

El Salvador
Panama
Peru

Laws amending the Criminal Code
Chile
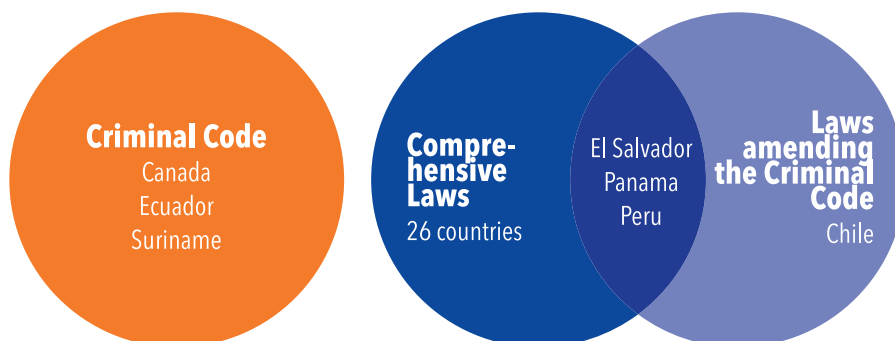
Diagram 11 shows that the most frequently used legislative option for characterizing trafficking in persons is via "comprehensive laws" (26 countries). In 3 countries (Canada, Ecuador, and Suriname) trafficking in persons is already directly characterized in their Criminal Codes. Chile is a special case inasmuch as it was the only country in which reference was made only to a law (Law N° 20.507 of 2011) through which amendments were made to the Criminal Code so as to characterize trafficking in persons as a specific crime. For their part, 3 countries (El Salvador, Paraguay, and Peru) appear, based on the information shared via the questionnaires, to have both legislative instruments: a law amending the Criminal Code so as to characterize trafficking in persons and a comprehensive human trafficking law. [Table 2]

Table 2: Countries with "mixed" legislative characterizations

Country	Law amending the Criminal Code	Year	Comprehensive Law	Year
El Salvador[23]	Legislative No. 210	2004	Legislative Decree No. Special Law against Trafficking in Persons	2014
	Legislative Decree No. 457	2004		
Paraguay	Law No. 3.440/08	2008	Law No. 4.788/12	2012
Perú[24]	Law No. 30.251	2014	Law No. 28.950 against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants	2007

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires

As for the year, it is fair to say that most legislative activity to criminalize trafficking in persons took place between 2006 and 2015. [Figure 9] In that nine-year period, 25 countries passed laws or amended their Criminal Codes to characterize the crime of trafficking in persons. One of the first to do so was the United States, in 2000. Barbados and Brazil would appear to be the countries that did so most recently (in 2016). [Figure 10]

[The complete list of laws charactering the offense of trafficking in persons can be found in Appendix # 6, Information Resource – List of laws characterizing the crime of trafficking in persons in the countries of the region, in order of year of adoption/entry into force.]
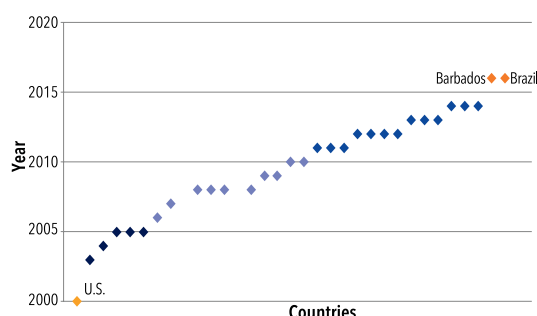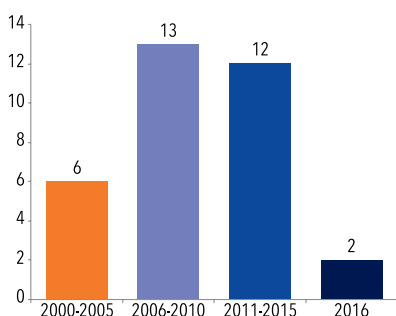
Figure 9

Legal definition of trafficking in persons as an offense, by period

Figure 10

Legal definition of trafficking in persons as an offense, by year and by country

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

2. Investigative strategies and procedures

In regards to strategies and procedures available for investigating cases of trafficking in persons, there are two broad approaches: reactive investigation[25] and proactive investigation.[26] When neither is viable, it

23 Article 367-B of the Criminal Code was amended by DL No. 210, adopted on November 25, 2003 and published in the Official Gazette on January 8, 2004.To complete the characterization of the crime of trafficking in persons, DL No. 457 was adopted on October 7, 2004 and then published in the Official Gazette on November 8, 2004.

24 Peru is a special case in the sense that first the Comprehensive law was passed and then, seven years after it was adopted, Law No. 30.251 perfected characterization of the offense of trafficking in persons by amending Article 153 of the Criminal Code.

25 Reactive investigation, based on the victims: this is used when the investigator receives information about the criminal activity, in this case commission of the crime of trafficking in persons, and there is an urgent need to intervene. "Toolkit to Combat Trafficking in Persons," United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Programme Against Trafficking in Human Beings, New York, 2007, p.72. Available online at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/HT-toolkit-es.pdf

26 Proactive investigation, based on police action (and not on cooperation or testimony from the victims), emphasizes the gathering and analysis of confidential information and collaboration

is possible to resort to disruptive investigation.[27] Another key tool for trafficking cases is financial investigation.[28] [Diagram 12]

Question 25 of the questionnaire sought to identify the "investigative strategies and procedures" used in the various countries to investigate trafficking in persons cases. Only 8 of the 33 countries that replied to the questionnaire provided information on the different procedures and types of investigation they can activate in such cases. One of the 8 is Argentina, in which the Public Prosecutors' Office urges national and federal prosecutors to proactively initiate preliminary inquiries. In its reply, the country also mentioned the possibility of requesting a precautionary measure from the judge in the case to encumber properties in which exploitation is being conducted, which could suggest the need to have carried out a disruptive or financial investigation.

For its part, Bolivia made mention of its using proactive investigation tools, such as: under-cover agents, the interception and recording of telephone calls, and cyber patrols. The country further specified that the Bolivian Police was the body operationally responsible for applying such instruments.

Guatemala mentioned carrying out proactive investigations directed by the Public Prosecutors' Office, which, in conjunction with work done by other institutions in the country's criminal justice system, had resulted in the capture of alleged traffickers in various parts of the country.[29]

Pursuant to its 2014-2018 National Program to Prevent, Punish, and Eradicate Trafficking in Persons and Assist the Victims of such Crimes, Mexico is conducting reactive and proactive investigations under the direction of the Public Prosecutor's Office specializing in this area.[30]

For its part, Paraguay commented that covert operations were the preferred means of investigation for cases of trafficking in persons. Informants and plea bargain confessions are also used.

Saint Lucia referred to both reactive and proactive investigations. The first are triggered by a report, information, or testimony provided by victims. Faced with an imminent risk, an immediate intervention is planned and deployed to protect the victims and garner the evidence needed to build the case. In its reply, Saint Lucia specified that it engages in undercover procedures, using secret or covert agents. It also activates investigative procedures based on intelligence gathering through human surveillance and technical tools. With respect to disruptive or obstructive investigations, Saint Lucia explained that those are multi-agency undertakings aimed at complicating, upsetting, and disturbing human traffickers' day to day routines and the illicit business they conduct.

among multiple agencies. Ibid., p. 74

27 Disruptive investigation is used when the two other forms of investigation prove to be inadequate and it includes activation of a series of tactics for obstructing criminal activity and forcing traffickers to shed their cover. Ibid., p. 78.

28 Ibíd., p. 80.

29 This information was taken from Guatemala's reply to Question 22 of the questionnaire.

30 Trafficking offenses are investigated and prosecuted from a human rights and gender perspective. The efforts of agencies involved in human trafficking issues are coordinated through the Inter-Secretarial Commission. The National Program also aims to create the conditions to prevent trafficking crimes and provide protection and assistance to victims.

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines listed three types of investigation: proactive investigations, reactive investigations, and investigations based on intelligence-gathering. For its part, Trinidad and Tobago said it used reactive and proactive investigations (in line with Section 13 to 44 of Chapter 12:10 of the Law against Trafficking in Persons.

Uruguay was the only country actively employing the four investigative strategies or procedures outlined at the start of this Section: reactive, proactive, disruptive or obstructive, and financial (parallel to the others).

Finally, the U.S. Department of Justice also conducts financial investigations and its Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS) seeks the seizure and forfeiture of assets in certain cases. In addition, the U.S. Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) seeks to advise financial institutions on how to detect and report suspicious financial activity that may be related to human smuggling and/or human trafficking. FinCEN, in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations and members of the financial industry, has identified financial indicators, or "red flags," that may indicate financial activity related to human smuggling or human trafficking. FinCEN has continued to receive Suspicious Activity Reports on these indicators from 204 advisory informing financial institutions. It proactively shares this information with domestic law enforcement agencies, including agencies from the President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, which use financial information to support their human trafficking investigations.

Diagram 12:
Types of Investigative Strategies/Procedures

Reactive	Proactive
Saint Lucia	Argentina
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Bolivia
Trinidad and Tobago	Guatemala
Uruguay	Paraguay
	Saint Lucia
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
	Trinidad and Tobago
	Uruguay

Disruptive	Financial
Argentina	Argentina
Saint Lucia	Uruguay
Uruguay	U.S.

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

3. Specialized Units

The countries' answers to question 25 referred to the existence of specialized units for investigating/prosecuting the crime of trafficking in persons in at least three spheres: the police, the public prosecutors' offices, and the courts. In addition, Question 32 of the questionnaire had attempted to ascertain how countries had determined the need to establish specialized police units and/or similar trained personnel in security and justice system institutions to prevent and combat trafficking in persons. Following is therefore an analysis of the replies to Questions 25 and 32, focusing in particular on those countries that have specialized units dedicated full time to the investigation of human trafficking and related offenses, in the three aforementioned spheres.

Along those same lines, it is worth pointing out that 21 countries provided information about specialized units for investigating cases of trafficking in persons. Bearing in mind that 6 countries mentioned more than one body specializing in investigation/prosecution/punishment, the one most frequently cited (15 countries) was the body operating within the police sphere: Argentina[31], the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, México[32], Paraguay, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Venezuela. The second most frequently cited group were the specialized units established within the Attorney General's offices or the Public Prosecutors' Office. Such offices for investigating and prosecuting human trafficking cases would appear to be found in 10 countries: Argentina, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, and Venezuela. In the judiciary, specialized courts were only found in 2 countries: Guatemala and Uruguay, which have specialized courts on trafficking and on organized crime, respectively. [Diagram 13 and Figure 11]

Diagram 13
Specialized Units Sphere by number of countries

Figure 11
Specialized Units Sphere

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.
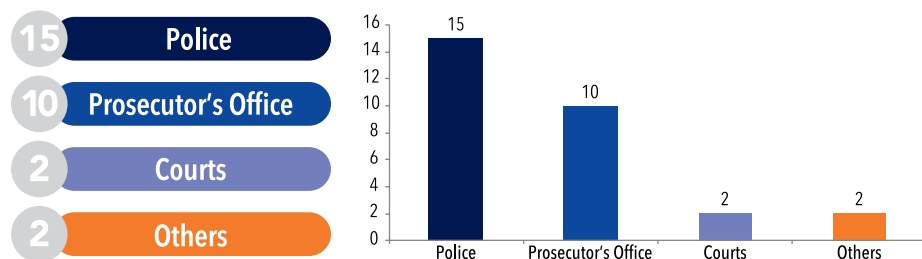
As regards Guatemala, it is worth pointing out that it was the only country to mention the existence of bodies specializing in trafficking in persons

31 The four federal police forces have specific branches trained in and assigned to intervening in situations geared to preventing and combating trafficking in persons. In the Argentine Federal Police, it is known as the Trafficking in Persons Division; the Trafficking in Persons Investigations Department operates with the Argentine Naval Prefecture; an Anti-Trafficking in Persons Department was established in the Argentine National Gendarmerie; while the Airport Security Police has its Operating Unit to Monitor Drug Trafficking and Complex Crime.

32 Mexico has a National Unit to Combat Trafficking in Persons, headed by the Investigations Division of the Federal Police. The National Unit establishes lines of police investigation based on the analysis of information on the structures and modes of operation of criminal organizations. It also coordinates and carries out specific police actions to ensure the collection, analysis, and use of data that evidence crime and to locate, deter, prevent, and combat crimes, including trafficking in persons.

offenses in three different spheres of its criminal justice system. In its answers to the questionnaire, the country explained that the work directed and coordinated by the Public Prosecutors' Office to prosecute and punish trafficking in persons has triggered proactive investigations resulting in the capture of traffickers operating in different parts of the country.

Finally, two countries have established multi-agency bodies to coordinate and push ahead with investigations of human trafficking cases. Given the multi-dimensional nature of the crime, it is worth pointing out that Antigua and Barbuda and the United States both stated that they operate with multi-agency units. Antigua and Barbuda has an Anti-Trafficking Task Force, created by the Committee for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons. In the United States, the Anti-Trafficking Coordination Team was launched in 2011 by the Department of Justice, Homeland Security, and Labor to streamline coordination among federal enforcement agencies to develop high-impact federal human trafficking investigations and prosecutions. In addition, the US has two specialized units: one that is dedicated to prosecuting human trafficking offenses and the other that focuses on child sex trafficking. Furthermore, anti-trafficking taskforces are located around the country, and together with Mexico both countries have launched the United States-Mexico Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative.

[For the complete list of specialized units by country and by sphere, see Appendix #7, Information Resource – Specialized Units.]

4. Investigation Protocols

Another important piece of information is that, based on the replies to the questionnaire, at least 6 countries were identified as having protocols or guidelines for criminal investigations into trafficking in persons offenses. [Figure 12 and Diagram 14].

In the case of Argentina[33] and Paraguay, at least two were identified. It is worth mentioning that all of them, with the exception of Jamaica's which dates back to 2007, were recently drawn up, that is to say, in this decade. The most recent is Uruguay's, published in 2016. In Colombia and Uruguay, the institution responsible for drafting the Protocol was the Ministry of the Interior; in Argentina and Paraguay it was the Office of the Procurator-General and the Public Prosecutors' Office, respectively. In Chile and Jamaica the institution charged with drawing up the Protocol was the multi-agency body responsible for linking and coordinating each country's anti-trafficking efforts.

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33 In the case of Argentina, Guidelines were produced for "Procedures and Criteria for Detecting and Investigating Trafficking in Persons for Labor Exploitation Purposes," which, as the title indicates, focuses on trafficking for labor exploitation purposes. The Guidelines are available online at: http://www.mpf.gob.ar/resoluciones/PGN/2011/PGN-0046-2011-001.pdf. In addition, a document was drawn up in 2016, entitled "Testimony of the Human Trafficking Victim" ("El Testimonio de la Víctima de Trata de Personas"), containing a series of useful tools to guide prosecutors' attempts to elicit a victim's testimony. Available online at: http://www.fiscales.gob.ar/wpcontent/uploads/2016/07/ProtexTestimonio-V%C3%ADctima-Trata.pdf

Figure 12

Year in which Protocols were drafted, by country

Diagram 14

Institutions responsible for drafting Protocols

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.
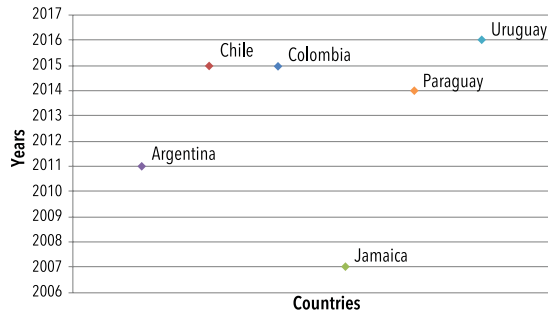
In addition to the national level, the Ibero-American Network against Trafficking in Persons of the Ibero-American Association of Public Prosecutors (AIAMP, by its Spanish acronym) adopted the Protocol on Inter-institutional Cooperation to Strengthen the Investigation, Care, and Protection of Victims of the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants between the Ibero-American Public Prosecutors' Offices in November 2017.

[The list of Criminal Investigation Protocols mentioned by the countries in their replies to the questionnaire can be found in Appendix #8, Information Resource – Criminal Investigation Protocols.]

SECTION E:
Identification, Assistance and Protection of Victims

1. Instruments and communication channels available to the public for assisting victims of trafficking in persons and receiving reports

Based on the replies to Question 27, it is fair to say that the most used instrument or channel is some kind of telephone line; at least ten different types of telephone lines were mentioned.[34] Countries provided information on more than one type of telephone line.

Among this variety of reported telephone lines, it was impossible to determine the institution responsible for managing and attending to the line in 16 cases. This was because the countries did not provide detailed information on their respective telephone lines.

Ten of the 33 countries stated that they had a dedicated line for the crime of Trafficking in Persons (TIP).[35] [Figure 13]

Figure 13

Channels for reporting crime/assisting victims

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.
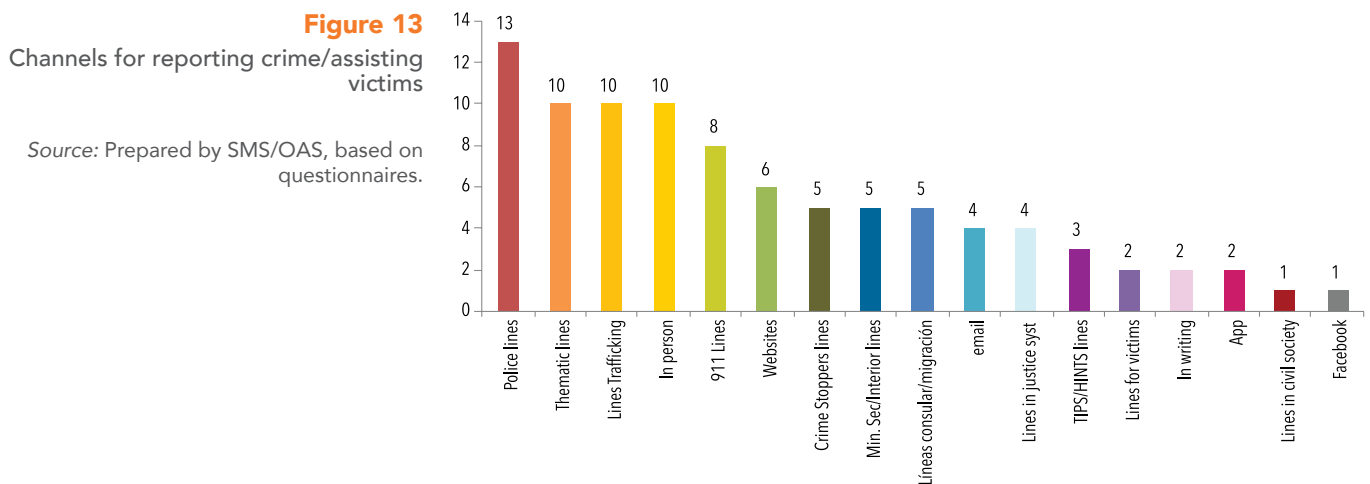
Ten others also have "thematic" telephone lines outside the scope of their criminal justice systems, related to employment, gender equity/parity, sexual violence, violence against women, domestic violence, and childhood and adolescence, which may also receive human trafficking allegations.

Telephone lines of the various police institutions were mentioned by 13 countries as channels that can also be used to report crimes, including trafficking in persons. These kinds of lines might be called "generic" to distinguish them from the dedicated phone lines for receiving reports specific to trafficking offenses.

In addition to the instruments and channels that might be called "traditional," including denunciations in person or in writing, and

34 Based on the information submitted by the member states through the questionnaires, the following types of telephone lines were identified: Lines operated by the police sector; thematic lines; exclusive lines for reporting complaints/information on the crime of trafficking in persons; 911 emergency lines; Crime Stoppers lines; lines operated by the Ministries of Security, Interior, or Defense; lines operated by the judicial sector; lines connected to consular offices and immigration; TIPS/HINTS lines; lines for victims; and lines operated by civil society.

35 Mexico noted the existence of two telephone lines for reporting trafficking in persons, one operated by the Special Prosecutor's Office for Violence against Women and Trafficking in Persons (FEVIMTA, by its Spanish acronym) and another operated by the Mexico City Citizens' Council but described as a national line.

telephone calls reporting a crime, or telephone calls by victims to request information or assistance, 6 countries mentioned the use of websites, 4 mentioned e-mails, 2 developed an app for smart phones (Colombia and Peru) and 1 referred to the Ministry of Justice's Facebook page as another channel through which report human trafficking offenses.

At least four countries (Bolivia, Grenada, Panama, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) reported telephone lines for filing complaints, but did not specify the number or the institutional setting in which these lines operate. In the particular case of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, reference was also made to Facebook and email, but without providing information on the institutions responsible for managing those accounts.

This section begins with a brief description of the telephone lines that are used exclusively for the crime of trafficking because this is the type of channel that is intended to be highlighted and promoted in the countries of the region.

1.1 Dedicated trafficking hotlines

Ten countries reported having dedicated lines either to denounce/report possible cases of trafficking in persons or to assist victims. [The complete list of countries with their respective lines dedicated to handling human trafficking offenses can be found in Appendix #9, Information Resource – List of Dedicated Telephone Lines for Trafficking Offenses.]

Of those 10 countries with a dedicated line, 2 did not provide the number and 4 did not specify which institution ran the telephone line for denouncing cases of trafficking in persons. Furthermore, of the 8 countries that did provide the telephone number, in at least 4 cases such lines may be said to be free of charge. In the case of dedicated trafficking hotlines, an important feature is that calls are not only cost-free; they also use direct numbers that are easy to remember. Three outstanding examples are Argentina's 145, Guatemala's 110, and Peru's 1818.

At least 4 countries made it clear that the lines operate 24/7 all year round. Two countries specified that calls may be anonymous and two countries also clarified that phones are answered by staff who are specialized or specially trained to handle calls received through this particular type of telephone line. The United States was the only country that mentioned its ability to handle calls in several languages.

According to the countries that specified the operational scope of their respective dedicated human trafficking lines, 3 are in the security sector (Ministry or Police), and the rest are divided between the Ministry of Justice, the Special Prosecutor's Office, a non-governmental organizationl[36] and a Citizens' Council.

In Argentina, the line operates under the National Rescue Program (PNR), which in turn reports to the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. Once the report is filled, it is sent to the Judicial Branch or the Office of the Prosecutor for the Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons (PROTEX)

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36 According to information reported by the United States of America, the Department of Health and Human Services funds a non-governmental organization to operate and manage the telephone line.

for preliminary investigation. If it is an emergency situation, federal security forces are contacted. A third possibility is that if the complaint is related to the offer of commercial sex services by any audiovisual means, it is referred to a specialized department of the PNR.[37]

Peru's 1818 hotline was established in 2006 as part of the "Llama y Vive" (Call and Survive) campaign. In 2010, it was taken over by the Ministry of the Interior. The United States facility is worth mentioning for at least three reasons: first, because the line is operated by a civil society organization; and second, because apart from being a direct number to call free of charge it provides the public with a TTY (text telephone) number for persons with partial or total hearing loss. Third, it also offers the possibility of online chat messages.

1.2 Police telephone lines for reporting offenses

Thirteen countries say they have telephone lines operated by their Ministry of the Interior or Ministry of Security, or by their various police institutions, for people to denounce all kinds of crime, including cases of trafficking in persons. Of those 13 countries, only 3 specified the number: Chile, Guatemala, and México. [The complete list of telephone lines by country can be found in Appendix #10, Information Resource – Directory of Police Telephone Lines.]

In Chile, the telephone line mentioned pertains to the Carabineros Criminal Investigation Department (*Fono Denuncia*). In the case of Guatemala, crimes can be reported through the 110 line operated by the National Civil Police. For its part, Mexico referred to Federal Police hotline 088 as a channel for reporting human trafficking crimes. Saint Lucia explains that police officers assigned to the Police Situation Room received special training in identifying and dealing with human trafficking offenses.

1.3 "Thematic" telephone lines

Ten countries stated that they had telephone lines that were called "thematic," in reference to the fact that they are not exclusive to the crime of trafficking but rather encompass a broader range of issues that may include trafficking in persons, whether to report it or to ask questions and seek advice on the subject. These lines are generally outside the framework of security and criminal justice systems. Of these 10 countries, Colombia (3) and Uruguay (3) reported the greatest number of "thematic" lines. [For the complete list, see Appendix #11, Information Resource - List of "Thematic" Telephone Lines.]

Based on the name of the telephone line or of the institution operating it, these lines can be grouped together under headings: Thus, 5 telephone lines have to do with women/gender; 4 with different types of violence (domestic, sexual, against women), 4 others with labor issues; 3 with domestic violence, 1 with childhood and adolescence; and 1 with human rights. [Figure 14]

37 The hotline is staffed by professionals specializing in human trafficking and gender-based violence. Calls can be made from all types of telephones: public, semi-public, landlines, or mobile phones. The line also has a recording system that ensures that the data from each complaint is kept on file for a period of ten years. This data archive supports judicial investigations which, in turn, have led to searches, rescues, and subsequent victim assistance.
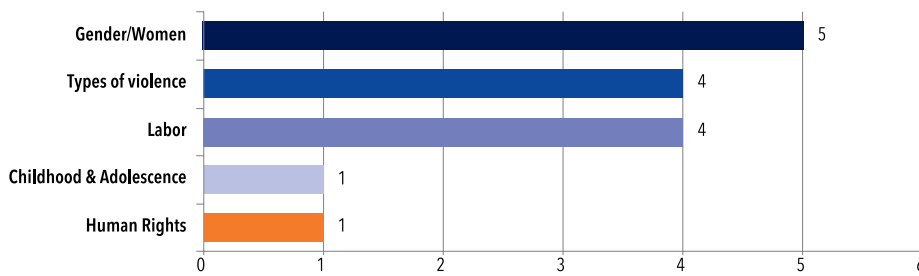
1.4 Reports filed in person or in writing

In their replies, 10 countries mentioned the filing of complaints in person or in writing as a channel available for reporting alleged cases of trafficking in persons. Figure 15 evidence that a variety of institutions were cited as places for reporting this crime, with Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Dominican Republic, and Suriname citing more than one entity.
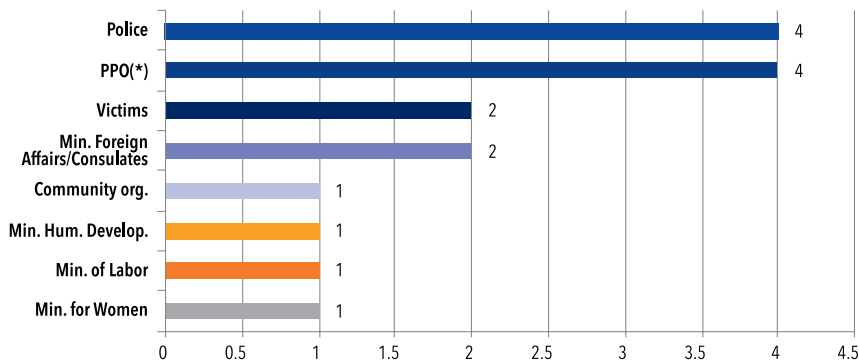
1.5 Regarding other reported types of telephone line facilities

1.5.1 Emergency lines (911)

In their replies, eight of the 33 countries mentioned a 911 emergency line.

1.5.2 Crime Stoppers

Five said they had a "Crime Stoppers" telephone line. Furthermore, for three of the five cases, it transpired that the lines were both direct and cost-free.

1.5.3 Telephone lines within Ministries of Security (or similar)

At least five countries made reference to telephone lines under their respective Ministries of Security (Public or National), Interior, or Defense. In Chile, the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security has the "Denuncie Seguro" ("Safe Report") program, which provides citizens with a telephone number to report information about crimes they have witnessed. In the case of Uruguay, it was specified that the telephone number provided belongs to the Directorate General for Combating Organized Crime, under the Ministry of the Interior.

1.5.4 Consular or migration-related telephone lines

Of the five countries that referred to a telephone line linked to the issue of migration, 3 countries: Colombia, Paraguay, and Uruguay provided information about the instruments and channels available for reporting and obtaining assistance should they be victims of trafficking in persons. Paraguay and Uruguay have telephone lines. In the case of Paraguay, it is available until 6 p.m. In addition, Paraguay operates an e-mail address. In both countries, the service is operated by their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Colombia mentioned the possibility of filing complaints with its consular offices abroad, and also has a toll-free national line, immigration line 153.

Regarding the U.S., its Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Homeland Security Investigations operates a 24/7 hotline for reporting suspicious criminal activity, which has a phone number for domestic calls and another for international calls.

1.5.5 Telephone lines operating within the justice system

Four countries (Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Venezuela) said they had lines open in judicial entities for receiving reports of any kind of crime, including trafficking in persons, and for providing assistance to victims. In the case of Chile, the Public Prosecutor's Office implemented the User Information and Service System throughout the country which, by means of a call center and a web portal, provides information on how to file a complaint, including for cases of human trafficking. In the case of Costa Rica, the complaints line at the Judicial Investigation Agency (OIJ) is cost-free and confidential. In Venezuela, the Public Prosecutors' Office operates a direct-number cost-free telephone line for denunciations and assistance to victims.

1.6 Alternative channels/instruments

Apart from the telephone lines and the possibility of lodging complaints in person or in writing (the methods that could be called "traditional"), at least 9 countries referred to other kinds of channels or instruments, which we might call "alternative." [Diagram 15]

As regards websites, the United States was the country that mentioned the highest number of websites (4). Of the 13 websites provided overall, 6 allow users to file anonymous online reports.

Jamaica mentioned the websites at the Ministry of Justice, the Trafficking in Persons Unit and the Office of the Children's Registry, but did not provide the links or operational details of these sites with regard to trafficking in persons. Much the same could be said with respect to Facebook.

Two of the websites target specific audiences: children and adolescents, and workers. It is also worth noting that civil society organizations are involved to some extent with three of the aforementioned websites.

Websites
Canada
Chile
Colombia
Jamaica
Peru
U.S.

E-mail
Jamaica
Paraguay
Saint V & the Grenadines
Trinidad & Tobago
U.S.

Facebook
Jamaica

App
Colombia
Peru

2. National Programs for victims of trafficking in persons offenses

It is worth mentioning that 3 countries (Argentina, Paraguay, and the United States) reported the existence of public policy planning instruments geared specially to victims of trafficking.

With respect to Argentina, Law 27.372 on the Rights and Guarantees of Crime Victims was passed in 2017. This law created the Crime Victims Assistance Center (CENAVID, by its Spanish acronym)[38], under the purview of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights of the Nation. In addition, it established the position of Victims' Advocate within the Office of the National Ombudsperson, in order to guarantee technical assistance and legal representation for victims of crime.[39]

In the case of Paraguay, the country reported that the National Program to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Persons and to Assist its Victims was established by Article 51 of Law N° 4.788/12, and that currently the Ministry for the Advancement of Women is responsible for designing and implementing the Program.

In the United States, the Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking[40] has been in effect since 2013 and three Status Reports have been publicly released. The purpose of the Federal Strategic Action Plan is to describe the steps that federal agencies will take to ensure that all victims of human trafficking in the United States are identified and have access to the services they need to recover.

3. Standardized protocols for identifying, assisting, protecting, and referring victims of the crime of trafficking in persons

Question 43 of the questionnaire sought to ascertain what standardized protocols are used to identify, assist, protect, and refer human trafficking victims. In their replies to that question, the countries alluded to two types of instrument: one geared to the identification, assistance, protection, referral (and, in some cases, reintegration) of the victim, the other relating to detection of the offense and immediate response.

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38 CENAVID is responsible for providing assistance to crime victims within the jurisdiction of the federal justice system throughout the country, and for providing third-party assistance to crime victims within the jurisdiction of the ordinary justice system at the request of local jurisdictions.

39 This service is particularly important in view of the limited financial resources and vulnerability of the victims.

40 The Plan is available online at: https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/plan.html

Of the 33 countries taking part in the exercise, 15 were able to provide information about the first type of protocol. The instruments referred to by Argentina[41] and Brazil appear to be of a more general nature since in practice they encompass all stages in the process, including the part involving assistance/protection. For that reason they could not be considered specific to the particular stage of addressing the victim's needs. Other observations relate to the fact that three countries (El Salvador, Guyana, and the United States) stated that they had protocols of that type but failed to provide any "bibliographical reference" about them. For its part, Peru appears to have different instruments for attending to trafficking victims, depending on the public institution involved. Thus, as of now, it has at least three protocols, in effect for: the National Police, the Public Prosecutors' Office (Ministerio Público), and the Ministry of Women and Vulnerable Segments of the Population.

An attempt was made to conduct an analysis based on three criteria already used throughout this Report:

- Year (year of publication, adoption, or entry into force of the protocol);

- Institution (institution responsible for drawing up the protocol); and, finally

- Accessibility (that is to say, applied to this part of the Report, if it is possible to find the protocol online, at the official website of the institution that presides over the issue of trafficking in each country).

Only Mexico and Uruguay provided information on the three above-mentioned variables.

3.1. Protocols for the identification, assistance, protection, and referral of victims

Of the 17 protocols of this first type (Jamaica, Peru, and Uruguay reported more than 1), only 7 could be found on (and downloaded from) the Internet.

For their part, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay, said that they had specific protocols for attending to cases of child and adolescent victims. In the case of Argentina, the Protocol on Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation also has Guidelines for its implementation and a federal coordination system, consisting of Provincial Focal Points of Assistance responsible for putting these instruments into practice in their respective fields of action.[42]

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41 Argentina referred to the Unified Coordination Protocol, drawn up by the Executive Committee to Combat Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims and adopted by Resolution 1280/2015. The Protocol applies to the entire process, from the filing of the complaint to victim assistance. Available online at: http://servicios.infoleg.gob.ar/infolegInternet/anexos/250000-254999/252982/norma.htm

42 The Federal Council for Children, Adolescents, and the Family adopted the Protocol on Assistance to Victims of Trafficking and Child Sexual Exploitation, as well as a set of Guidelines for their uniform implementation throughout the country, through the Ministry of Social Development. Accordingly, in 2012, the Ministry of Social Development, as the National Focal Point for Assistance, created a federal coordination system through the establishment of Provincial Focal Points of Assistance.

3.2 Protocols for immediate detection and response

With regard to the second type of protocol, 4 countries stated that they had them. Of those countries, Chile was the only one to provide information regarding the year of publication of the protocol and the institution responsible for it. At the same time, it was ascertained that the protocol is posted on the website of the Ministry of the Interior and Public Security, the institution that, in turn, chairs Chile's Inter-agency Round Table on Trafficking in Persons. Within this group, it is worth mentioning the instrument prepared by Bolivia for early detection in a migration context

3.3 Other types of victim-related protocols

Apart from these kinds of protocol, it is worth noting that Paraguay reported publication of a protocol for certifying victimization and another for assessing the risks to which victimized persons are exposed. The same country and Uruguay reported that they have protocols for the detection, assistance, and referral of victims of trafficking for use specifically by embassies and consulates.

3.4 Protocols for the care of victims of trafficking for purposes of forced labor or services

Of the 14 countries that replied to Question 43, United States and Uruguay were the only ones to refer to the labor context. In the United States, the Department of Labor has collaborated with the Department of Justice to enhance mechanisms to detect and refer instances of potential labor trafficking identified in the course of its regular Wage and Hour investigations. Uruguay pointed out that the country has a special chapter in the Guidelines for Responding to Queries and Counseling on Matters Relating to Workers' Fundamental Rights dealing, in particular, with assistance to workers more vulnerable to falling victim to trafficking networks for labor exploitation purposes.

3.5 Supranational protocols

Furthermore, as regards protocols applicable to the subregion, the only ones mentioned pertain to Mercosur. Thus, it is worth pointing out that Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Uruguay mentioned the "Guidelines for Regional Actions for Early Detection of Trafficking in Persons Situations at Border Crossing Points in Mercosur Member and Associated States." Uruguay was the only country that mentioned the Operating Protocol of the Coordination Mechanism for Articulating the Care of Women in Human Trafficking Situations and the "Mercosur Guidelines. Providing Care to Women in Situations Involving Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Purposes."

[For the complete list of protocols systematized on the basis of the countries' replies, see Appendix #12 - Information Resource – Protocols for Care Provision/Protecting Victims of Trafficking in Persons]

SECTION F: Information Systems

Question 39 in the questionnaire asked how countries gather, record, systematize, and report data relating to trafficking in persons. In an attempt to systematize the replies, at least four different "models" were discerned:

1. A single digital system to which multiple institutions (information sources) upload data referring exclusively to trafficking in persons for processing, analysis, and reporting. The data entry may be centralized or decentralized.

2. Multiple institutions, each with their own system for uploading exclusively trafficking-related data, which are then processed, analyzed, and reported.

3. The National Authority in the country receives the data (electronically or manually) on trafficking in persons, which are then processed, analyzed, and turned into reports.

4. A system/process already installed in the country (usually in police institutions) for filing reports and generating crime statistics.

Using the information reported by 28 countries in their replies to Question 39 of the questionnaire, the systematization exercise was conducted based on the four models outlined above. Five countries could not be included because 2 of them did not answer the question and 3 did not provide enough information to envisage the process of gathering, systematizing, and reporting trafficking related data.

Figure 16 illustrates the distribution of countries in respect of the above-mentioned information system models. It should be explained that Bolivia and Uruguay were counted twice for the reasons indicated throughout this Section. In any event, the system that appears to predominate in the region for trafficking in persons is one already in place, used in countries for crime data collection and the preparation of crime statistics.

Figure 16
Information System Models

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.
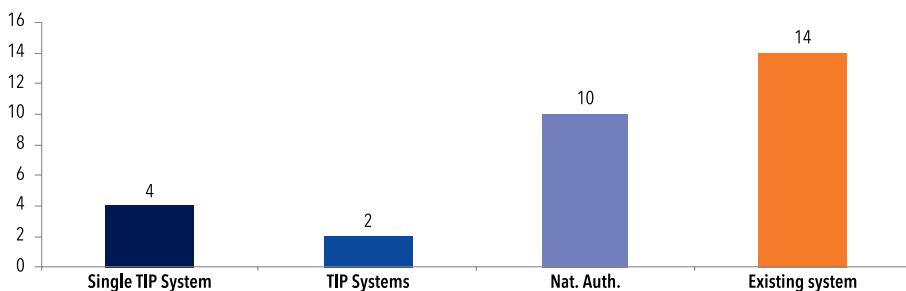
As can be seen in Table 3, four countries appear to have information systems exclusively for the crime of trafficking in persons: The Bahamas, Belize, Jamaica, and Mexico.

Table 3

Country	System	Institution in charge	Design	Sources	Public Access	Public Reports
Bahamas	Unnamed[43]	Sub-Committee on Data and Investigation	Centralized	- Police - Social Services - Public Prosecutor's Office	No	No
Belize	FAMCare	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council	Centralized	- Police - Social Service - Migration and Customs	No	No
Jamaica	Integrated Trafficking in Persons Information System and Database	Ministry of Justice[44]	Decentralized	N/S	No[45]	No[46]
Mexico	National Information System on Trafficking in Persons[47]	Ministry of the Interior	Centralized	- Police - Migration - Public Prosecutor's Office - Courts - Social service Institutions - NGO	No[48]	Yes[49]

Source: Prepared by OEA/SSM based on questionnaires.

N/S: Not specified.

In two of the four countries, the National Authority against Trafficking in Persons is responsible for running the system, in Jamaica it is the Ministry of Justice, and in Mexico that responsibility lies with the Ministry of the Interior.

In the specific case of The Bahamas, it is the Sub-Committee on Data and Investigation that uploads cases to the system database, based on information provided above all by the police, social services, and the public prosecutor's office. The Sub-Committee analyzes the data uploaded and is responsible for preparing monthly reports that it presents to the Ministry of National Security. Belize would appear to follow the same pattern of centralizing the uploading of data in a single institution. It describes FAMCare as both an online data management system and as a database. FAMCare receives information from multiple

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43 In its reply to the questionnaire, the Bahamas refers to the System as a tool for uploading/collecting data and as a database, but made no reference to any particular name.

44 The information system and database were developed by the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The system is housed in the Ministry of Justice servers but functions as the central repository for the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons (NAFTATIP).

45 Due to the confidential and sensitive nature of the information, access to the platform is restricted.

46 For the same reason, reports generated by the System are also not open to the public.

47 The National Information System on Trafficking in Persons was developed by Mexico in coordination with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

48 The country explained that the System is currently at a stage in which historical data are being checked; the agreements needed for appropriate data capture are being signed; and training programs are under way.

49 Regarding report, Mexico just explained that the System would have "dynamic report"-producing capacity thanks to cross-comparisons among the data it handles.

institutions: the police, social services, migration, and Customs. Annual reports are produced based on the data uploaded, processed, and analyzed. However, in neither case was it possible to access the systems described. Nor would we find online reports.

The second "model" identified could apply to Peru. In addition to having a Crime Observatory, Peru has developed two information systems exclusively dedicated to trafficking issues:

1. The Records and Statistics System for the Crime of Trafficking in Persons and Related Offenses (RETA, by its Spanis acronym), hosted and run by the National Police.

2. The Trafficking in Persons Strategic Information System (SISTRA, by its Spanis acronym), housed in the Public Prosecutors' Office.

In addition, in the process of looking for reports that might have been generated from the data uploaded to the two systems, the only one found was a statistical report prepared by Peru's National Institute of Statistics and Information Technology (INEI, by its Spanis acronym) which contains human trafficking data for 2011-2016.[50] The INEI explained that the Report was drawn up using information provided by SISTRA at the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of the Interior's RETA, Judiciary data, and data from the National Prison Institute. An additional source of information used is the Assistance and Information Line against Trafficking in Persons (Line 1818, option 1). [For more information on this report, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking in Persons.]

These two systems are currently not interconnected. However, according to information provided by the country itself, work is now under way to make them interoperable. Thus, a pilot project for exchanging information on trafficking in persons, called INTERTRATA, is being implemented in the Lima South district.

Based on its own statement, the Office of the Prosecutor for Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons (PROTEX, by its Spanis acronym) of the Argentine Procurator-General's Office could be included in Group 2 inasmuch as it gathers all judicial rulings handed down in the country in human trafficking cases. Its personnel upload the information to an I.T. program that allows them to process the data and break them down by jurisdiction, the accused, victims, nationality, type of exploitation, and by year, as well using other filters. It is this program that also enables them to compile statistical reports. [To access the statistical report, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.] In the case of the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, the National Rescue Program produces and disseminates statistics on reports received through Line 145 and on victims rescued/assisted by the National Rescue Program. At the same time, in 2011, the Ministry of National Security launched the Integrated Criminal Information System on the Crime of Trafficking in Persons (SisTrata). Beginning in 2017, this system became the Federal Criminal Information System on

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50 "*Denuncias de Trata de Personas. Presuntas víctimas y presuntos(as) imputado(as), 2011-2016*", National Institute of Statistics, 2017. Available online at: https://www.inei.gob.pe/media/MenuRecursivo/boletines/boletin_trata_de_personas.pdf

the Crime of Trafficking in Persons, which integrates information from security forces at the national and provincial levels.[51]

Uruguay could also be considered a candidate for inclusion in this second group inasmuch as the Service for Attending to Women Caught Up in Trafficking for Sexual Exploitation Purposes of the National Women's Institute manages a system containing records of all the cases it deals with, in which data are uploaded for a set of standardized variables. However, the information provided by the country does not specify whether, based on the processing and analysis of those variables, indicators or statistics are generated that are then presented online or as part of a report.

Antigua and Barbuda, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Honduras may all be placed in the third group.

Brazil figures at a point of intersection between Groups 1 and 2 because, according to the information provided in its reply to Question 39 of the questionnaire, it drew up an "Integrated Methodology for Gathering and Analyzing Data and Information on Trafficking in Persons"[52] to be applied internally by each institution making up the country's criminal justice system and by some in the care network for victims of trafficking, with each maintaining their own systems/processes/tools while making the necessary adjustments so as to be able to send in the data for the defined categories and variables. Here it is worth pointing out that two groups of categories/variables were established: a first group considered mandatory and a second group encompassing categories/variables considered desirable. In addition, for each category, it was determined which institutions would be in a position to provide the data for the variables included in that category.

According to the methodology and, in particular, its Guideline No. 9, participating institutions commit to sending, each year, to the Ministry of Justice (which in Brazil functions as the National Authority for human trafficking matters) the data recorded for each defined category/variable. For its part, the Ministry is responsible for validating, compiling, analyzing, and disseminating those data in a consolidated report. Thus far, four national reports on trafficking in persons are said to have been prepared (the latest covering the period 2014-2016)[53], all of them posted on the Ministry's website.[54] For a complete list of the reports, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.] At the same time, the Portal of the National System

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51 The Federal Criminal Information System on the Crime of Trafficking in Persons was created by Resolution 787-E/2017 of the Ministry of Security. It is administered by the National Bureau of Investigations which, in turn, reports to the Undersecretariat for the Investigation of Organized and Complex Crime of the Ministry's Security Secretariat. The System consists of a database with quantitative and qualitative information. The information is provided by the provincial police forces or the competent local security authority, as well as by the Argentine Federal Police, the Argentine Coastguard, the National Border Patrol, and the Airport Security Police. The loading form is composed of 5 fields: File, Task, Hijacked Elements, Person, and Domiciles. Each field, in turn, consists of a set of variables to be completed.

52 The methodology is available online at: http://www.justica.gov.br/sua-protecao/trafico-de-p pessoas/publicacoes/anexos-relatorios/metodologia-integrada-de-coleta-e-analise-de-dados

53 "*Informe consolidado a partir del levantamiento y sistematización de datos sobre la trata de personas en Brasil para el período 2014 a 2016*", Ministry of Justice and Public Security – National Secretary for Justice and Citizenship, Coordination Office for Combating Trafficking in Persons, Brasilia, 2017. Available online at: http://www.justica.gov.br/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas/publicacoes/relatorio-dados-2014-2016.pdf

54 All national reports are posted on the Ministry of Justice and Public Security Website, available

for Information on Public Security, Prisons, and Drugs (SINESP , by its Spanish acronym) may function as a National Repository storing all the data and reports produced.

In the case of Chile, the authority responsible for gathering, processing, and analyzing information is the Executive Secretariat of the Inter-Sectoral Round Table on Trafficking in Persons. The information is provided by Carabineros de Chile, the Chilean Investigative Police, and the Public Prosecutors' Office, which in turn derive it from denunciations, investigations, and court judgments). Additional information comes from reports by the Victims Support Program and the visas issued for victims of trafficking in persons by the Department for Foreign Nationals and Migration. All the statistical reports drawn up since 2011 are posted on the Internet and are available to the general public. [For a complete list of the reports, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.]

As regards Colombia, the various national entities competent in this field remit statistical information to the Ministry of the Interior, in its capacity as the National Authority and Technical Secretariat of the Inter-institutional Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons. Once the data have been received, it is the Ministry itself that is responsible for preparing reports on the crime of trafficking in persons. However, the country did advise that the Ministry of the Interior is currently developing a National Information System on Trafficking in Persons. In other words Colombia would be shifting toward Group 1.

In El Salvador, the Executive Secretariat of the National Council against Trafficking in Persons developed a set of indicators for measuring achievements and progress in each of the areas of intervention proposed in the Special Law against Trafficking in Persons of 2013. However, it does not clearly transpire whether the system is digital, if each institution provides data for its own indicators, or whether it remits the information to the Executive Secretariat for it to upload the information. Nor does the information shared by the country through the questionnaire clearly indicates whether reports based on the indicators' system are produced and published.

Guatemala may also be placed in this group given that, according to its reply to Question 39, each institution generates its own statistics and it is the Secretariat against Sexual Violence, Exploitation, and Trafficking in Persons (SVET) that is responsible for gathering, compiling, processing, and analyzing the information and generating reports on the human trafficking situation in the country. The SVET has its own website where it is possible to access statistics produced by the Public Prosecutors' Office. The principal sources of information are the reports received by the Public Prosecutors' Office, concerning trafficking in persons and rulings handed down by the courts in trafficking cases (both convictions and acquittals). [For more information on the statistics provided by the SVET, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.]

online at: http://www.justica.gov.br/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas/publicacoes

In the Dominican Republic, each institution in the Inter-institutional Commission against Trafficking in Persons and the Smuggling of Migrants (CITIM) keeps records of human trafficking cases using its own tools (the information provided does not indicate whether the tools used are digital or manual). At the end of each year, it its capacity as the entity coordinating the CITIM, the Trafficking and Human Smuggling Division of the Consular Affairs Department in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs asks each institution for a report on cases received/attended to/processed. The information provided does not specify whether those reports are printed or electronic. Based on the reports delivered by each institution, CITIM prepares a consolidated report.

Before moving on to the next group, it is important to note that in Group 3, made up of 10 countries, only for two (Brazil and Chile) was it possible to ascertain the preparation and publication of reports on trafficking in persons compiled on the basis of the data that the National Authority gathers, systematizes, processes, and analyzes.

In the fourth category, a distinction can be made between the countries that, using already installed systems/processes for uploading, processing, and analyzing crime statistics, produce reports devoted exclusively to trafficking in persons and those that simply mentioned that they use existing systems/processes but without necessarily highlighting/differentiating data on trafficking. The first sub-category would appear to include countries such as Barbados, Bolivia, Canada, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United States, and Venezuela. The second sub-group would include Bolivia, Dominica, Panama, Saint Lucia, and Uruguay.[55]

Based on the information it provided, Bolivia could be in both sub-groups. According to its reply to Question 39 of the questionnaire, Comprehensive Law N° 263 against the Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons, the Ministry of the Interior, through the National Citizen Security Observatory (ONSC, by its Spanish acronym), is the entity that should keep track of indicators and assess compliance with the goals established for fighting this and related crimes. At the same time, Bolivia has designed the Georeferenced Citizen Security System (SIGOSEC, by its Spanish acronym) to handle information on crimes and violence, which will operate within the Bolivian Police, and is about to be implemented in a pilot scheme. It should be mentioned that an attempt was made to ascertain the type of information or reports generated by the ONSC, but, the website was down as this Report was being prepared.[56]

In Ecuador, it is the Criminal Policy Directorate of the Attorney General's Office that is responsible for drawing up the "Delitoscopio" Statistical Report. As this Report was being written, only one "Delitoscopio" Statistical Report could be found on trafficking in persons, entitled "*Trafficking in persons in Ecuador*" and dated 2013. [For more information on this reports, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.]

55 Uruguay explained that currently it does not keep official statistics on trafficking or smuggling of persons and the commercial sexual exploitation of children and adolescents but plans to work on this matter with a view to improving its records.

56 An attempt was made to visit the following Website: http://www.onsc.gob.bo/

In Guyana, the institution responsible for centralizing and filing reports, including those received via the direct TIP Hotline exclusively for trafficking in persons cases, is the Guyana Police Force. Based on the information received, which is kept in specifically designated tables, the Ministry of Public Security uses a statistics package to conduct the necessary analyses and prepare reports. It is worth mentioning that, like Peru, Guyana also made explicit reference to the information received via the TIP Hotline, which is regarded as an input for gathering, processing, and analyzing data, and preparing reports.

According to the information provided by Paraguay, the Public Prosecutors' Office has a statistical data compilation system, including data on trafficking in persons, which feeds on filed reports and investigations under way. Although the country stated that the data are open to the public that information was not found on the Public Prosecutors' Office website.[57]

Suriname reported that the Police Anti-Trafficking Unit and the Office of the Attorney General produce statistics on trafficking in persons. For its part, Trinidad and Tobago replied that data are garnered from multiple institutions and recorded manually; there is no database exclusively for uploading and storing data on trafficking in persons. The Counter Trafficking Unit (CTU) of the Ministry of National Security is responsible for producing a report (with a statistics section) based on the cases and investigations it handles and presenting it to Parliament each year. The same Unit produces monthly and quarterly reports and sends them to the National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons.

From the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, the United States Federal Government can gather crime data (including trafficking in persons) at the local and state level. However, as the country explains in its reply to the questionnaire, not all state and local jurisdictions participate in the program. In any case, the last publication specifically addressing trafficking in persons to be found on the website for the UCR Program dates back to 2016.[58] [For more information on both reports, see Appendix #13, Information Resource – Statistical Reports on Trafficking.] At the same time, according to the information provided, the Justice Department keeps data on criminal investigations and prosecutions at the local, state and federal levels. Furthermore, the Attorney General Report contains data at the state and local level as submitted by the Bureau of Justice Assistance/Office for Victims of Crime Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Forces.[59] It should be noted that the Attorney General presents a report on progress made in this area to the United States Congress every year. The latest progress report on activities conducted by the various federal entities competent for human trafficking issues is the report for 2015.[60]

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57 Online statics were not available on the Website of the Public Prosecutors' Office: http://www.ministeriopublico.gov.py/inicio, or the Strategic Information Analysis Directorate: http://www.ministeriopublico.gov.py/direccion-de-analisis-de-informacion-estrategica-i1205

58 The report is available online at: https://bit.ly/2PRJsIh

59 ECM Task Forces collect data such as: number of trafficking in persons cases reported, number of suspects associated with investigations, number of suspects arrested, number of offenders charged, as well as associated data.

60 The report is available online at: https://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking/attorney-generals-

Venezuela reported that it has the Venezuelan Observatory against Organized Crime and the Financing of Terrorism, which is a dependency of the Office bearing the same name. That Office, in turn, is organizationally part of the Ministry of People's Power for Internal Relations, Justice, and Peace. The Observatory is the entity charged with gathering, recording, and systematizing information on trafficking in persons.

Bahamas
Belice
Jamaica
Mexico

Argentina
Peru
Uruguay

Other

Police   Public Prosecutor's
Office

Antigua and
Barbuda
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Dominican
Republic
El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras

National
Authority

Produce reports on trafficking

Police
Public Prosecutor's Office
Other Institutions

Barbados
Bolivia
Canada
Ecuador
Guyana
Paraguay
Suriname
Trinidad and
Tobago
United States
Venezuela

Bolivia
Dominica
Panama
Santa Lucia
Uruguay

Diagram 16
Distribution of countries by information system model on trafficking

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

trafficking-persons-report

SECTION G:
Gender Perspective

This Section[61] was based on the countries' replies regarding: [Diagram 17]

1. Sex (male/female), position and composition of the National Authority.

2. Whether the countries referred explicitly to incorporating a gender perspective in the design and implementation, respectively, of their policies/plans.[62]

3. Whether the countries identified women as one of the sub-groups vulnerable to the crime of trafficking in persons.

4. Finally, this Section also takes into account whether countries bear gender in mind when providing accommodation services for victims of trafficking.

Diagram 17
"Indicators" for mainstreaming of a gender perspective

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS

National Authority
Sex
Position
Composition

National Policies/Plans

Gender Perspective

Vulnerable Groups

Shelters/Accommodation Services
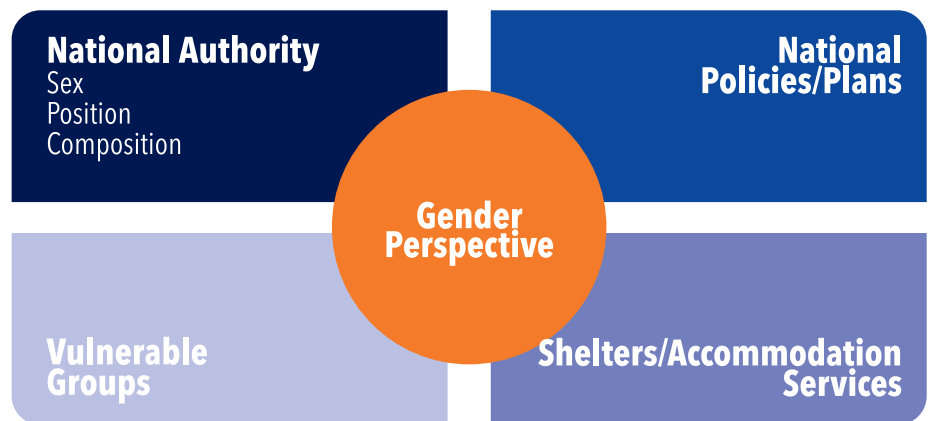
1. Person in charge of the National Authority, by sex[63]

By establishing the sex of the person in charge of the National Authority (regardless of whether it is an individual authority or part of a multi-agency body), the idea is to get a general idea of how many women are in powerful or decision-making positions.

From Diagram 18, we may conclude that the most senior positions in the National Authority or entity responsible for coordinating and directing matters relating to trafficking in persons are fairly equally divided between men (17) and women (16).

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61 In other words, this Section was based on information regarding the National Authority provided in the Introduction to the questionnaire and the replies to questions 18, 19, and 45.

62 Question 18 refers to legislation, policies, and programs. For the purposes of this exercise, the analysis focuses on policies/plans, using the terminology found in Section B.

63 Be this the person presiding over the institution in charge of trafficking issues (single authority) or the person directing/coordinating the multi-agency body. The difference between the two types of institutional arrangement was presented and analyzed in Section A of this Report.

2. Public entities specializing in gender equality/equity[64] or similar entities forming part of the multi-agency bodies reported by the countries

In the approach to trafficking in persons the incorporation of State institutions that advocate and promote gender equality/equity across the board, including the defense and protection of women's rights, opens up the possibility of these issues being taken into consideration institutionally at every phase in the formulation of policies and plans and in decision making, particularly as regards victim care, protection, and reintegration, given that so many victims are women. It also provides an opportunity for a broader view and insight into how the inequalities derived from gender stereotypes have an impact on trafficking in persons.[65] This entails the incorporation of an analysis of the potential (positive and negative) impacts that policy, programmatic, and judicial decisions may have on the actors involved in the crime,[66] given the different conditions and needs determined by gender stereotypes.
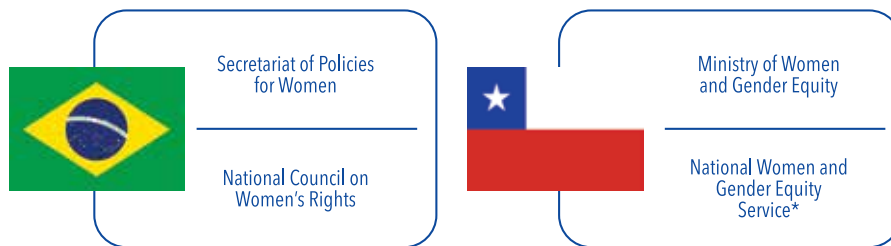
Secretariat of Policies for Women

National Council on Women's Rights

Ministry of Women and Gender Equity

National Women and Gender Equity Service*

Eighteen of the 27 countries with a multi-agency body (i.e., 66.6%) have a government body responsible for gender or women's issues.[67] In the case of Argentina, the Federal Council to Combat the Trafficking

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64 According to the *Guía para la integración del enfoque de género en políticas, programas y proyectos de la OEA*, p. 10, the gender equality/equity framework includes women's rights. Available online at: http://www.oas.org/en/cim/gender.asp. See also in English: Handbook on mainstreaming gender equality into the OAS project cycle: http://www.oas.org/en/cim/docs/Handbook_Gender_Mainstreaming_Project.pdf

65 Ibid, p. 91.

66 Ibid, p. 89.

67 Neither Canada nor Guatemala provided enough information on their respective multi-agency bodies to be able to classify them based on this criterion.

and Exploitation of Persons and Provide Protection and Assistance to Victims includes a representative from the National Women's Council, which became the National Women's Institute (INAM, by its Spanish acronym) in 2017.[68]

Two cases in particular stand out (Brazil and Chile), because the multi-agency bodies in those two countries (the National Committee for Combating Trafficking in Persons - CONATRAP, by its Spanish acronym, and the Inter-sectoral Round Table on Trafficking in Persons, respectively) contain more than one body of that kind. [Diagram 19]

Moreover, based on the information provided by the countries, Brazil appears to be the only one that has a representative of the National Council to Combat Discrimination and Promote the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transvestite, and Transsexual Persons as a member of the inter-agency body.

Particularly worth mentioning among the Caribbean countries are Barbados and Jamaica. These two countries not only have a representative from a State entity responsible for monitoring and promoting gender and women's issues within their respective inter-agency bodies; they also have a representative of women's civil society organizations. [Diagram 20]

Diagram 20

Governmental and nongovernmental representation on gender and women's issues in the inter-agency bodies in Barbados and Jamaica

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

(*) In March 2016, the Bureau of Women's Affairs was reportedly renamed the Bureau of Gender Affairs.

National Task Force on Human Trafficking — Bureau of Gender Affairs — Business & Professional Women's Club

National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons — Bureau of Women's Affairs* — Association of Women's' Organizations — Women Inc.
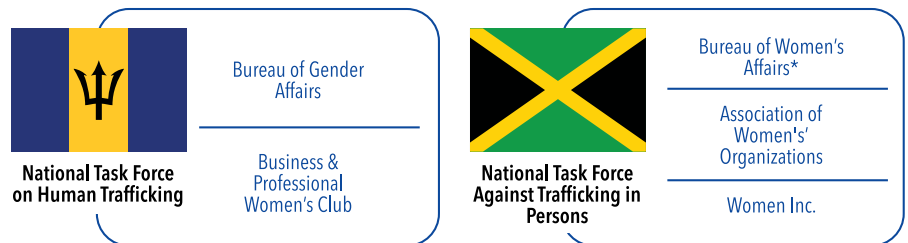
In addition, in the case of Barbados, the Bureau of Gender Affairs is the monitoring and oversight body for trafficking in persons issues.

As Section A of this Report already stressed, Uruguay's inter-agency body, the Inter-institutional Round Table for Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, is the only one that is chaired and coordinated by a public entity responsible for advancing the women's agenda in the country (the National Women's Institute which, moreover, forms part of the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES, by its Spanish acronym).

One last observation regarding public entities for gender or women's affairs that form part of inter-agency bodies established to adopt an integral, coordinated, and articulated approach to trafficking in persons in the countries is that they are entities with a separate institutional status/rank/hierarchical position within the State's bureaucratic-administrative apparatus.

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68 INAM has the status of a Secretariat and operates under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development. It develops national policies, programs, and initiatives aimed at empowering women and promoting gender equality and the eradication of violence. It is also responsible for implementing the 2017-2019 National Plan of Action for the Prevention, Assistance, and Eradication of Violence against Women.

As Diagram 21 shows, the most frequent institutional formats for government entities responsible for gender/women's issues that at the same time form part of inter-agency bodies addressing the issue of trafficking in persons are ministries and national institutes (6 countries, respectively), followed by ministerial-level secretariats (3 countries). Then, in 2 countries, they count as secretariats or advisory offices to the Presidency, and, in another two, they figure as National Councils. Finally, Guatemala opted to have an Inter-Agency Commission.

Diagram 21
Distribution of countries by type of public institution[69]

Antigua & Barbuda Chile Haiti Paraguay Peru Saint V & the G	Brazil Colombia	Argentina* Barbados Jamaica
Ministry 6	**Office of the President** 2	**Secretariat** 3
Guatemala	Costa Rica El Salvador Honduras Mexico Panama Uruguay	Brazil Ecuador
Commission 1	**Council** 6	**Institute** 2

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

(*) In the case of Argentina, it is important to point out that the National Women's Institute was established in September 2017, within the sphere of the Ministry of Social Development, with the rank of a Secretariat and replacing the former National Women's Council.

3. National policies and plans to combat trafficking in persons that take a gender perspective into account

Diagram 22 shows how, in replying to Question 18 of the questionnaire, especially the part in which countries are asked to "specify if and in what way a gender perspective is considered," 18 of the 33 countries explicitly mentioned that a gender perspective is taken into account in their national policies and plans for dealing with trafficking in persons. Thirteen countries made no mention of the subject and 2 countries did not answer the question.

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69 The blocks were arranged according to institutional weight and not necessarily according to the number of mentions received.

Diagram 22
Gender perspective

Diagram 23
Women as a vulnerable group

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

YES: 18 | NO: 13   YES: 22 | NO: 10

4. Women identified as a segment of the population vulnerable to trafficking in persons

Diagram 23 shows the number of countries that, in their answers to Question 19, identified women as a segment of the population vulnerable to trafficking in persons. Unlike those 22 countries, there are another 10 in which women were not identified as a vulnerable segment, and one country did not answer the question. In the group of 10 countries in which women were not identified as a vulnerable segment of the population, it is striking that in 2 Caribbean countries the reason given was that in those countries there were no known complaints/cases of trafficking in persons or else that the country did not consider itself a place of origin for trafficking in persons.

Among the 22 countries that stated that they had identified women as a segment of the population vulnerable to becoming victims of trafficking in persons, there are major differences as regards the type of information provided. While 13 of those 22 countries simply placed "women" on the list, without offering more details regarding those women's profiles, the 9 remaining countries were able to provide some kind of information regarding the characteristics of that segment of the population vulnerable to be caught up on trafficking networks.

Based on the answers to Question 19, no country was able to provide a thorough description of the victims of human trafficking. [Diagram 24] The country using most descriptors (or breakdown variables), apart from sex, was Colombia (4), followed by the Bahamas and Paraguay (3 each); Honduras, Uruguay, and Venezuela (with 2 each), and, finally, Canada, the Dominican Republic, and Guyana (with 1 each).

Diagram 24
Variables to describe women victims, by country.

Total number of victims • No country provided information	**Socio-economic status/ situation** • Honduras • Paraguay • Venezuela
Sex of the victims • 22 countries	**Type of exploitation** • Bahamas • Colombia • Honduras
Age of the victims • Colombia • Uruguay • Venezuela	**Types of flows** • Bahamas • Colombia • Dominican Republic • Guyana • Uruguay
Ethnicity • Canada	**Origins/Nationality** • Bahamas • Colombia • Paraguay
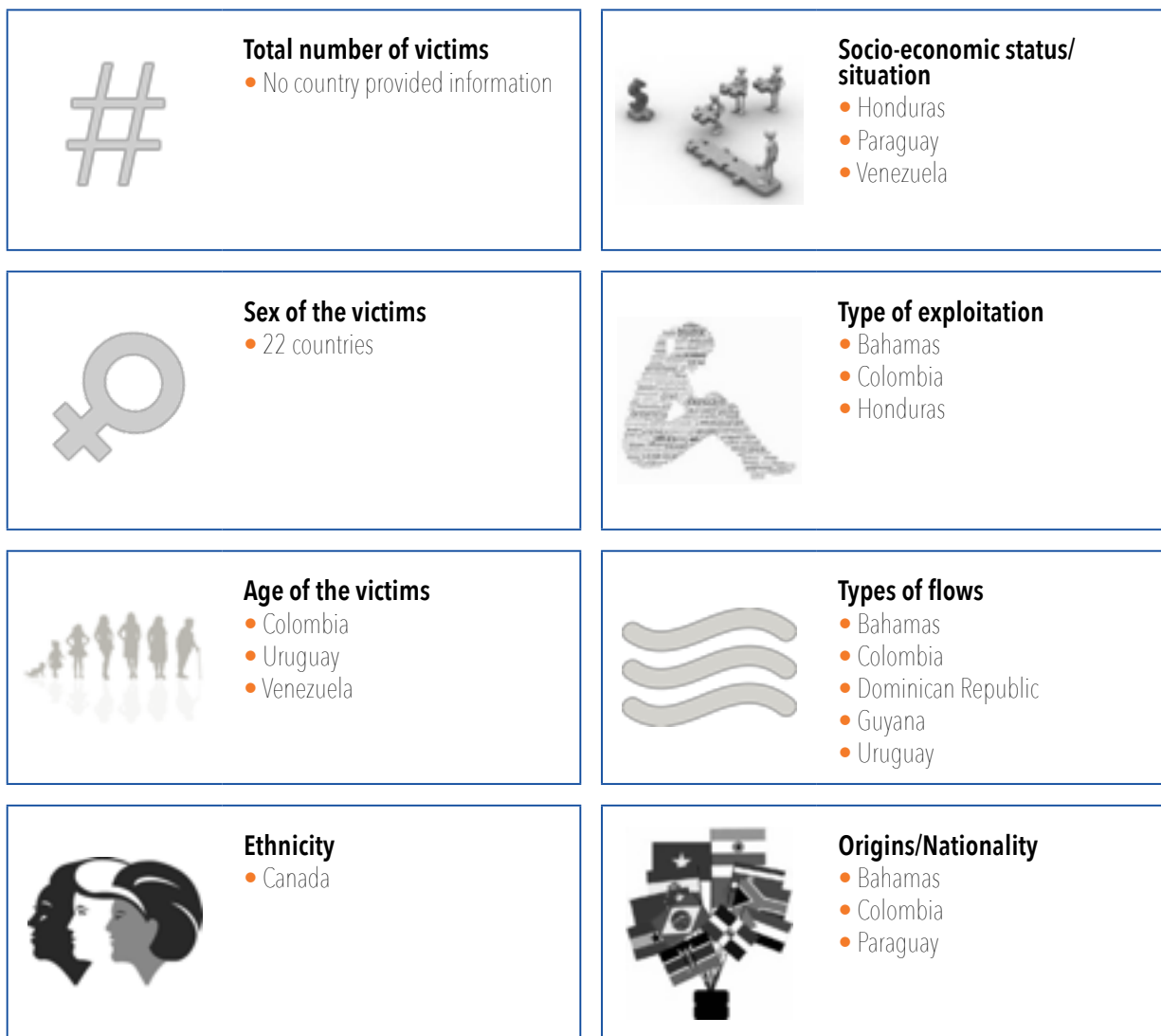
Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

5. Shelters and accommodation services for women victims

Question 45 in the questionnaire attempted to explore the prevalence of the gender perspective in the provision of accommodation services for victims of trafficking. Most countries answered this question by explaining whether they had houses/shelters/or other accommodation exclusively for women (girl, adolescent, or adult) victims of trafficking. In that sense, 20 countries said they did, 11 did not specify[70], and 2 countries did not answer the question. [Diagram 25]

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70 Guatemala mentioned the existence of three temporary shelters for children and adolescents (1 in Guatemala City and 2 in other parts of the country), but they do not appear to be exclusively for women/girls.

Diagram 25

Gender perspective in the provision of housing for victims of trafficking in persons

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

YES: 22 | NO: 12

Based on the States' answers, four comments need to be made on the following aspects:

i. Who provides the accommodation/housing service? Three options were identified: the State, a civil society organization, or the State in collaboration with an NGO. [Diagram 26]

ii. What kind of shelters are they? In this instance, two major types were identified: those that are for women victims of trafficking in persons only, and those with a broader focus that encompass various kinds of violence against women. With respect to this latter accommodation "model," more often than not the shelters for women victims of domestic violence are also used to take in women victims of trafficking in persons. [Diagram 27]

iii. Whether the houses/shelters/other forms of accommodation receive the children of women victim of trafficking in persons. [Diagram 28]

iv. Whether countries were able to provide any additional information about the victims (for example their profile) who were accommodated in houses, shelters or any other form of accommodation. [Diagram 28]

From Diagram 26 it transpires that, of the 20 countries that said they had accommodation for women victims of trafficking, in the majority of them (11) that service is provided by the State. At the same time, in 4 countries the State appears to have signed some kind of an agreement or arrangement whereby it is NGOs that take on the job of providing housing to women victims of trafficking. The third arrangement identified on the basis of the countries' responses was joint provision or in collaboration between the State and a civil society organization. Three countries alluded to that "model": Chile, Guyana, and Peru.

Diagram 26

Distribution of countries according to the institution that provides accommodation to women victim of trafficking

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

STATE

Argentina	Guyana
Brazil	Jamaica
Ecuador	Panama
El Salvador	Peru
Saint V & the G	
Trinidad & Tobago	
Venezuela	

NGO

Belize
Canada
Colombia
Honduras

HYBRID

Chile
Guyana
Peru

It is important to point out that these three "patterns" in the provision of accommodation for women victims of trafficking and other kinds of violence are not mutually exclusive. Thus, both Guyana and Peru referred to two different but complementary modalities for the provision of accommodation. Four of the 20 countries did not provide sufficient information to classify them according to these criteria.

Of the 20 countries that provide shelters/accommodation to women victims of trafficking, 8 place them in lodgings next to women victims of other kinds of violence, especially domestic violence. On the other hand, there are 10 countries that have houses/accommodation/shelters exclusively for women victims of trafficking. This difference can be seen in Diagram 27. Three countries did not provide sufficient information to be able to classify them according to these criteria.

EXCLUSIVE
Argentina(*)
Chile
Ecuador
El Salvador
Guyana(*)
Honduras
Jamaica
Paraguay
Peru
Venezuela

GENERAL
Barbados
Belize
Brazil
Canada
Colombia
Panama(*)
Saint Vincent & the Grenadines
Trinidad & Tobago

CHILDREN
Argentina(*)
Paraguay
Venezuela

VICTIMS
Canada
Guyana
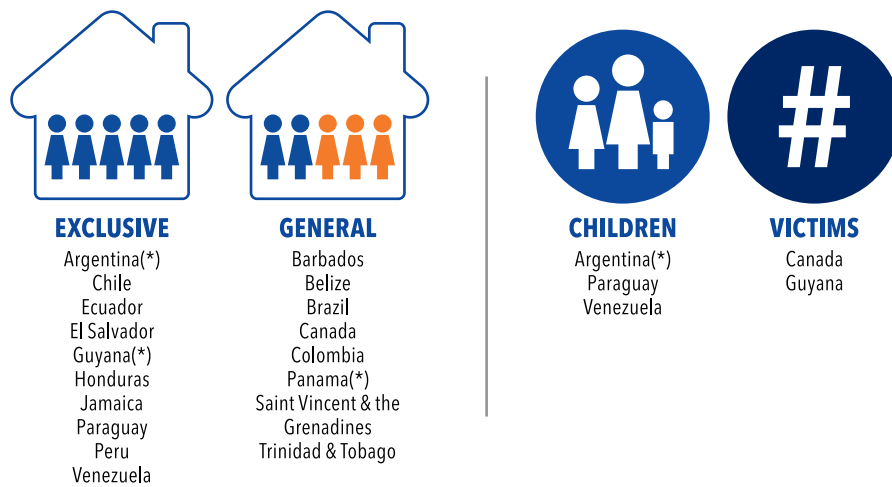
Diagram 27
Distribution of countries by type of shelter

Diagram 28
Capacities of shelters for women victims of trafficking

Source: Prepared by SMS/OAS, based on questionnaires.

(*) Argentina: The National Rescue Program has its own shelter exclusively for victims of trafficking. Victims, their children, and/or relatives are housed there and receive medical, psychological, social, legal, and security assistance 24 hours a day.[71]

(*) Guyana: The State signed 2 cooperation agreements with 2 NGOs. One of those agreements is to provide accommodation services exclusively for women victims of trafficking in persons.

(*) Panama: Panama explained that at the time a shelter exclusively for women victims of trafficking in persons was under construction.

It transpires from Diagram 28 that only in 3 countries (Argentina, Paraguay and Venezuela) do shelters for women victims of trafficking also accept their children. This is highly important if one bears in mind that in some cases children may be used to extort the women, threaten them, and otherwise exacerbate their submission and exploitation. While the U.S. federal government does not directly provide shelter for victims, federal funding goes to the states and to victim service providers operating within the states to provide shelter for all victims of trafficking, including victims and their dependent children. In addition, when describing the accommodation services they provide for women victims of trafficking, 2 countries (Canada[72] and Guyana) mentioned the total numbers of victims accommodated over a given period.

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71 The shelter is guarded by police personnel exclusively from the National Rescue Program. Guards are specially trained with a gender and human rights focus, and receive ongoing training from the program's Interdisciplinary Team.

72 Canada reported that between 2009 and 2014, 93% of the victims in human trafficking cases were women: almost half (47%) were between 18 and 24 years of age and one quarter (25%) were under 18 years of age. In the case of Guyana, in 2016, 32 victims and survivors of trafficking in persons received assistance.

FINAL COMMENTS

Generally speaking, all countries have legislative frameworks (a legal codification of the crime of trafficking in persons and comprehensive laws), a programmatic framework (national policies and plans), and an institutional framework (as regards both the national authority and specialized units within police institutions and prosecutors' offices, and specialized teams for caring for victims) to address the issue of trafficking at its various stages.

In most countries a collegiate, inter-agency body was found, comprised of representatives of a number of State entities (and, in some countries, of representatives of participating civil society organizations), which helps to achieve an understanding of, and approach to, the problem from a comprehensive, cross-cutting, and multidimensional perspective, encompassing the "3P's" referred to in the Palermo Convention: prevention, prosecution, and protection. Given the nature and dynamics of the crime of trafficking in persons, this would appear to be an appropriate institutional framework. Within the inter-institutional or multi-agency "model," there are differences among countries. It would be necessary to explore whether and how institutional arrangements impact the performance and success of the policies, plans, programs, and strategies designed and implemented in the different countries; and their impact on the balance between the 3 P's. Prevention, Protection and care of victims, and their reintegration should not be relegated to second place.

The last "P" of the 3P approach usually refers to protection, care, and assistance. Some countries in the region also include the process of the victim's reintegration, an important aspect in efforts to reduce risk factors and turn vulnerabilities into opportunities. Canada and the Unites States propose incorporating a fourth "P" in the approach to human trafficking, namely "partnership," which refers to the need to establish the associations and partnerships required to facilitate cooperation among the multiple (governmental and civil society) actors working on this issue.

The Report reveals a "bias" toward trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation reasons and that is because a large part of the information provided by the countries through their replies to the questionnaire focused on that specific form of exploitation. In their replies, a few countries also referred to trafficking in persons for labor exploitation purposes, while even fewer made reference to trafficking for other purposes, such as organ harvesting or begging. A regional effort would be needed to shed light these other types of exploitation.

The Report ascertained that 14 national plans are still in effect. On the other hand, there are nine that were coming to an end as this Report was being prepared. In 4 of those 9 cases, an up and coming new plan was in evidence, but not in the other 5. It would be important to use the transition periods from one plan to another to conduct a formal and structured evaluation and learning process. In this regard, Canada is seen as a reference country on the subject that could share its experience with the other countries in the region. At the same time, it would be important to explore the reasons why 5 countries reported no national policy, program, plan, or strategy currently in effect with respect to trafficking in persons.

Based on the major differences in the way countries identified vulnerable segments of the population and described victim profiles, it is important to underscore the need to generate information based on the same disaggregation categories/variables, including: sex, age, ethnicity, socio-economic level, occupation/profession, type of exploitation, and nationality.

Regarding victims, some countries mentioned only victims from the reporting country; others only victims of other nationalities; few mentioned both types of victims. The two variables most frequently used to characterize them were sex (male or female) and age. An effort appears to be needed to broaden the number of disaggregation variables used to record and report about victims, with the ultimate goal of understanding who they are and consequently and consistently adjusting prevention policies and attention, assistance, and reintegration services. It is important to highlight the effort being made by some countries to draw attention to LGBTI persons and persons with disabilities as being among those vulnerable to human trafficking.

Similar observations can be made with regard to trafficking flows. Differences emerge in the ways countries report on trafficking flows. Most mentioned intra-regional trafficking (among countries in the Americas) or inter-regional trafficking (international trafficking between the Americas and other parts of the world), but did not allude to internal or domestic trafficking. Only in a few cases was information shared regarding the three types of flow; one or another type was emphasized, not all three.

Major differences were apparent when it came to describing vulnerable areas. The countries used different descriptors. Some described areas by type, using different typologies. Others focused on the type of trafficking route and form of transportation used. Here it is worth recalling that only 4 countries made explicit reference to some border areas, specifying which ones and where they are located geographically.

In addition to information about segments of the population and areas particularly vulnerable to trafficking in persons, it is important to generate and share information about the characteristics (profile) of the perpetrators, the organizations they belong to, to be familiar with the business and its various stages, and how the traffickers operate (their modus operandi). Due in large part to the design and content of the information-gathering tool used for this exercise, countries failed to provide information on the traffickers. That information gap should also be addressed in the next regional information-gathering exercise.

Over the past 15 years, the region has witnessed a trend toward the criminalization of trafficking in persons as a specific crime, by passing laws that amended the respective Criminal Codes or "comprehensive laws" that included legal definitions of this crime. The establishment of legal scaffolding focused on trafficking in persons should be considered a major achievement for the region. In addition, 21 countries reported the existence of specialized units in at least three sectors: the police, prosecutors' offices, and the courts (judiciary). This specialized institutional construct has been accompanied by the establishment and formation of special teams (task forces) and the adoption of investigation

techniques. Here it is worth underscoring that the investigation strategy most mentioned by countries was the proactive strategy. On the other hand, Uruguay and the United States were the only two countries to specifically mention financial investigations as a part of trafficking-related investigation strategies. There is a clear need to promote this type of investigation when it comes to prosecuting trafficking in persons. In that regard, the U.S. Department of Justice's Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS) has continued its collaboration with Treasury's FinCEN, non-governmental organizations, and other entities to raise awareness of the financial side of combating human trafficking and the ability to return forfeited funds to victims.

Given that trafficking in persons is a complex, multi-faceted criminal phenomenon, it is striking that only three countries – Antigua and Barbuda, the United States, and Guatemala – referred to the existence of institutionalized mechanisms for conducting joint investigations involving several State agencies. While few mentions were made of these types of mechanism at the national level, there were even fewer at the bilateral, subregional, or regional level. Since trafficking in persons is an international offense, it is also important to advocate greater links and coordination among countries, especially as regards the exchange of information in secure environments. This is another gap that could be filled in a subsequent regional exercise to garner information on trafficking in persons.

The principal instrument/channel for assisting victims and receiving/filing complaints are telephone lines. It is worth noting that 13 countries have telephone lines exclusively dedicated to trafficking in persons offenses. At least six core features of such lines were identified. They need to be:

1. Free of charge
2. Anonymity
3. Easy to remember
4. Operated by specialized personnel
5. Connected to other services to facilitate referral (use of the "one stop shop" concept)
6. Multilingual

Given the lack of information conveyed through the questionnaires, it was not possible to ascertain the existence of those six features in respect of the 13 such lines reported by the countries, except in the case of Argentina, where Line 145 meets 5 of the 6 proposed requirements.

The countries reported a large number and variety of telephone lines (911-type emergency lines, lines for reporting crimes, lines for denouncing specific crimes, Ministry telephone lines, and so on), which not only complicated the task of organizing and systematizing the information but could also confuse the general public and victims.

The transnationalization of crime suggests that it might be possible to establish a regional telephone number that, regardless of where the victim or complainant is located, is directly associated with trafficking in persons.

With respect to instruments/channels for attending to victims and receiving complaints, only a few countries mentioned website, e-mails, chats, and cellphone apps. For complaints filed in person, the two most frequently cited institutions were the police and public prosecutors' offices. This is an area in which local grassroots offices of civil society organizations could, within the fourth "P" (partnerships) framework, lend assistance to State and victims by recording and channeling complaints to the appropriate institutions.

At least 20 countries reported the existence of standardized protocols for identifying, assisting, protecting, and referring victims. Some of them are of a general nature and others vary according to the particular sphere or circumstance in which they are applicable (type of State institution: police station, public prosecutor's office, embassies and consulates, and so on) and the segment of the population they target (children and adolescents, for instance). Other countries mentioned protocols for detection and immediate responses or for certifying victimization through trafficking in persons. In any event, there is evidence of an abundance of protocols. What matters is knowing whether and how they are applied and whether they work.

With the exception of the United States, other countries' questionnaires failed to provide examples illustrating the existence of mechanisms/ instruments for recording and channeling the views and experiences of victims of trafficking with a view to shaping, improving, and correcting the policies, plans, and services provided by countries to persons trapped by trafficking networks.

With respect to how information on trafficking in persons is compiled, recorded, systematized, and reported, this Report was able to divide the systems described in the States' responses into four major categories:

1. Dedicated information systems specially designed to upload, process, and analyze data on trafficking in persons.

2. Each institution (police, public prosecutors' offices) handles its own information system devoted solely to human trafficking offenses, which are not necessarily interconnected (that being precisely one of their major disadvantages).

3. National Authorities that receive information from the institutions that makes up the multi-agency bodies, whereby it is the National Authority that is responsible for compiling, processing, and analyzing the information.

4. The information systems already in place in the countries, from which crime statistics, including trafficking statistics, are derived.

Currently, most countries fit into the fourth category ("model"), which means that there is a window of opportunity for improving and focusing on the systems used to gather, process, and analyze information on trafficking in persons. Jamaica and Mexico offer benchmarks in this regard inasmuch as they possess special IT systems for uploading, analyzing, and reporting human trafficking data. Some of the advantages that go with this kind of IT system, especially designed for human trafficking

offenses, are that: it differentiates human trafficking offenses clearly from the rest; it provides a vision and an integrated and complete understanding of the offense inasmuch as all the institutions involved with a particular phase or stage of actions to address the crime are included in the system and upload to it all their information; enables the possibility of having timely, up-to-date information; it avoids the duplication of effort and the handling of disparate data/statistics within the same country; and it makes it possible to trace and connect cases; to mention only some of the advantages. The value of this kind of tool is further enhanced if the information it generates serves as the basis for meetings with the institutions involved in assessing the current state of affairs and planning actions to be undertaken.

Possible disadvantages of this kind of system include the possibility that it could isolate trafficking in persons from other related crimes and thereby forgo the possibility of linking it to other types of crimes and to other criminal organizations. Another is that the involvement of multiple institutions – especially if personnel rotate frequently and security safeguards are not sufficiently stringent – may trigger differences and errors in the uploading of data and give rise to the leaking of confidential and sensitive information.

On the subject of information on trafficking in persons, it is also worth highlighting the effort that Brazil has made to come up with an "Integrated Methodology for Compiling and Analyzing Data and Information on Trafficking in Persons." This methodological tool is vital for standardization, harmonization, and consistency in uploading information among multiple institutions.

There appears to be a need for more digitized information, standardization of the variables used for recording and disaggregating data, and interconnection/interoperability of the tools/processes/systems used to gather, process, and analyze information on trafficking, with a view to achieving a better grasp of what is happening on the ground.

The Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 16, Target 16.2, "End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children" and Indicator 16.2.2: "Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation"; the fact that several countries have specialized units (police, public prosecutors, courts, and units for attending to victims); and the existence of some kind of information-gathering system opens the possibility of working on a standardized set of variables/indicators that would allow us an overview of the state of trafficking in persons in each country (at a minimum that set or nucleus should cover the core characteristics of the crime, clarification of cases, care for victims, and their reintegration).

Only a few countries appear to have websites specifically addressing trafficking in persons, for providing and disseminating relevant, up-to-date information, receiving complaints, connecting with victims, and providing accountability and transparency regarding efforts to combat trafficking in persons. Of those that do have such websites, only a very few provide online data or publish thematic and statistical reports on their digital platforms.

The national policies/plans of 18 countries would have incorporated a gender perspective in both their content and the manner in which they are implemented. Thought needs to be given to what it means to mainstream a gender perspective in a context specifically dealing with trafficking in persons and how such a perspective can be realized. There would appear to be some scope for devising and crafting a series of guidelines and indicators to help countries verify whether public policy instruments really do embody in a comprehensive and crosscutting manner a gender perspective for addressing trafficking in persons.

Given the stark inequalities that persist in the region, with the superimposition of multiple layers of inequality or conditions of vulnerability, it would be worth considering the incorporation of the notion of intersectionality in our approach to trafficking in persons, given the attention it draws to the link between gender inequalities and those based on ethnicity, class, religion, or sexuality.

The preparation of this progress report with the active participation and cooperation of the member states underscores the importance of having guiding instruments at the hemispheric level that address transnational, cross-cutting, and common interest issues, such as the Work Plan against Trafficking in Persons. Within the framework of the Plan, hemispheric exercises such as this one make it possible to take stock of the achievements and progress made by the countries and to identify valuable tools, practices, and experiences to be shared and exchanged. Accordingly, the information resources systematized in the Annexes section of the Report provide a preliminary overview of the instruments and "assets" generated by the countries themselves, which may be useful or serve as a reference for others. In addition, this type of hemispheric exercise, guided by a joint Work Plan, in turn facilitates the identification of pending areas and issues, gaps and needs, and even possible lines of action for the future. In this regard, it would be possible to work not only on setting up a single hemispheric human trafficking hotline but also on developing a set of minimum regional standards for: conducting investigations into trafficking cases; identifying, assisting, protecting, and referring victims; capturing, processing, and analyzing data on the crime of trafficking; and generating relevant indicators and statistics for situational understanding, policy, plan, and program design, as well as for monitoring and evaluating interventions, among other initiatives.

ANPPENDIX

Appendix # 1 | Information Resources: Inter-agency bodies

Country	Inter-agency bodies	Chaired by or under the auspices of:
Antigua and Barbuda	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Committee	Ministry of National Security
Argentina	*Consejo Federal para la Lucha contra la Trata y Explotación de Personas y la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas* *Comité Ejecutivo para la Lucha contra la Trata y Explotación de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas*	Head of Cabinet Office
Bahamas	Inter-Ministry Committee on Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of National Security
Barbados	National Task Force on Human Trafficking	Office of the Attorney General
Belize	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Council	Ministry of Development
Bolivia	*Consejo Plurinacional contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas*	Ministry of Justice
Brazil	*Consejo Plurinacional contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas* *Coordinacion Tripartita de la Política Nacional de Enfrentamiento al Tráfico de Personas*	Ministry of Justice
Canada	Human Trafficking Taskforce	Ministry of Public Safety
Chile	*Mesa Intersectorial sobre Trata de Personas*	Ministry of the Interior
Colombia	*Comité Interinstitucional para la Lucha contra la Trata de Personas*	Ministry of the Interior
Costa Rica	*Coalición Nacional contra el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas*	Directorate General for Migration and Foreign Nationals
Ecuador	Inter-agency Commission	Ministry of the Interior
El Salvador	*Consejo Nacional contra la Trata de Personas*	Ministry of Public Security and Justice
Guatemala	*Comisión Interinstitucional Contra la Trata de Personas*	
Guyana	Ministerial Task Force on Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of Public Security
Haiti	National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor
Honduras	*Comisión Interinstitucional contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata Personas*	State Secretariat (Ministries of Justice and Human Rights)
Jamaica	National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of Justice
Mexico	*Comisión Intersecretarial para prevenir, sancionar y erradicar los Delitos en Materia de Trata de personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Victimas de esos delitos*	Ministry of the Interior
Panama	*Comisión Nacional contra la Trata de Personas*	Ministry of Public Security
Paraguay	*Mesa Interinstitucional para la Prevención y el Combate a la Trata de Personas*	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Peru	*Comisión Multisectorial de naturaleza permanente contra la Trata de Personas y Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes*	Ministry of the Interior
Dominican Republic	*Comisión Interinstitucional contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes*	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	National Task Force for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of National Security
Saint Lucia	National Task Force for the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of Home Affairs, Justice and National Security
Suriname	Task Force to Combat Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of Justice and Police
T&T	National Task Force Against Trafficking in Persons	Ministry of National Security
U.S.	The President's Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons	Department of State
Uruguay	*Mesa Interinstitucional para la Prevención y Combate a la Trata de Personas*	National Women's Institute, Ministry of Development

Appendix # 2 | Information Resources: Websites with specific information on trafficking in persons

Country	Institution	Website
Argentina	*Comité Ejecutivo para la Lucha contra la Trata*	https://www.argentina.gob.ar/comitecontralatrata
	Procuraduría de Trata y Explotación de Personas (PROTEX)	https://www.mpf.gob.ar/protex/
Bahamas	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	http://bit.ly/2oIzRbf
Belize	Ministry of Human Development, Social Transformation and Poverty Alleviation	http://humandevelopment.gov.bz/index.php/atips/
Brazil	Ministry of Justice	http://www.justica.gov.br/sua-protecao/trafico-de-pessoas
Canada	Department of Public Safety	http://bit.ly/2jjxpHF
Chile	*Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública*	http://bit.ly/2htEnto
Guatemala	*Ministerio de RREE*	http://bit.ly/2F53Xkh
Mexico	*Secretaría de Gobernación*	https://www.gob.mx/trata-de-personas
Peru	*Ministerio del Interior*	http://quenoteencuentren.pe/
Suriname	Ministry of Justice and Police	http://bit.ly/2tqlWMW
U.S.	Department of State	https://www.state.gov/j/tip/
	Department of Justice	http://www.justice.gov/humantrafficking https://ovc.ncjrs.gov/humantrafficking/ https://www.ojjdp.gov/programs/human-trafficking-services.html

Appendix #3 | Information Resource: National Policies and Plans

Country	Public Policy Instrument	Period in force	No. of years in force
Antigua and Barbuda	Anti-trafficking action plan	2016-2018	2
Bahamas	National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Strategy	2014-2018	4
Belize	Anti-trafficking National Strategic Plan	2012-2014	2
Bolivia	*Política Plurinacional de Lucha Contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas*	2013-2017	4
	Plan Nacional de Lucha contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas	2015-2019	4
Brazil	*Política Nacional de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas*		
	II Plano Nacional de Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas	2013-2016	3
Canada	National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking	2012-2016	4
Chile	*Plan de Acción Nacional contra la Trata de Personas*	2015-2018	3
Colombia	*Estrategia Nacional de Lucha contra la Trata de Personas*	2016-2018	2
Costa Rica	*Plan Nacional contra la Trata de Personas y Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes*	2017-2020	3
Ecuador	*Plan Nacional para combatir la Trata de Personas, Tráfico Ilegal de Migrantes, Explotación Sexual, Laboral y Otros Modos de Explotación, Pornografía Infantil y Corrupción de Menores*	2006	
Guatemala	*Política Pública contra la Trata de Personas y Protección Integral de las Víctimas*	2014-2024	10
Guyana	*National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons*	2017-2018	1

Haiti	*Stratégie et Plan d'Action National pour la lutte contre la traite des personnes*	2015-2017	2
Honduras	*Plan Estratégico contra la Explotación Sexual Comercial y Trata de Personas*	2016-2022	6
Jamaica	National Program to Prevent, Punish and Suppress Trafficking in Persons and to Protect and Assist the Victims of those Crimes.	2012-2015	3
Mexico	*Programa Nacional para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar los Delitos en Materia de Trata de personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas de estos Delitos*	2014-2018	4
Panama	*Plan Nacional contra la trata de Personas*	2012-2017	5
Paraguay	*Política Nacional de Prevención y Combate a la Trata de Personas*	2010-2019	9
Peru	*Plan Nacional de Acción contra la Trata de personas*	2011-2016	5
	Política Nacional frente a la Trata de Personas y sus formas de Explotación	2015	
DR	*Plan Nacional de Acción Contra la Trata de Personas y el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes*	2009-2014	5
Saint Lucia	National Action Plan for Combating Trafficking in Persons	2015-2018	3
El Salvador	*Política Nacional contra la Trata de Personas*	2012	
Saint V & the G	National Action Plan against Trafficking in Persons	2016-2018	2
Suriname	Roadmap Suriname: Combating Trafficking	2014-2018	4
T & T	Strategic Nacional Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons	2016-2020	4

Appendix #4 | Information Resource: National Policies and Plans available online

Country	Policy/Plan	Link
Bolivia	*Política Plurinacional de Lucha Contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas (2013-2017)*	http://bit.ly/2FxKN62
	Plan Nacional de Lucha Contra la Trata y Tráfico de Personas (2015-2019)	http://bit.ly/2FmsfT8
Brazil	*Política Nacional de Enfrentamiento a la Trata de Personas*	http://bit.ly/2FxLNqO
Canada	National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons/ Plan d'action national de lutte contre la traite de personnes	http://bit.ly/2jjxpHF
Chile	*Plan de Acción Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas (2015-2018)*	http://bit.ly/2htEnto
Colombia	*Estrategia Nacional para la Lucha Contra la Trata de Personas 2016-2018*	http://bit.ly/2D6mneG
United States	National Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking (January 2017)	http://bit.ly/2t8In9c
Guatemala	*Política Pública Contra la Trata de Personas y de Protección Integral a las Víctimas (2007-2017)*	http://bit.ly/2F53Xkh
Guyana	National Plan of Action for the Prevention and Response to Trafficking in Persons (2017-2018)	http://bit.ly/2FidiEE
Mexico	*Programa Nacional para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar los Delitos en Materia de Trata de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas de estos Delitos (2014-2018)*	http://bit.ly/1jbPsbS
Peru	*Política Nacional Frente a la Trata de Personas y sus Formas de Explotación (2015)*	http://bit.ly/2HVNZqw
	Plan Nacional Contra la Trata de Personas (2017-2021)	http://bit.ly/2tamXXU

Argentina	*La Trata Sexual en Argentina. Aproximaciones para un Análisis de la Dinámica del Delito*
Institution	*Unidad Fiscal de Asistencia para la Investigación de Secuestros Extorsivos y Trata de Personas (UFASE), Ministerio Público* *Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales y Sociales (INECIP)*
Year	2012
Access	https://www.mpf.gob.ar/protex/files/2013/10/Informe_INECIP_Ufase_2012.pdf

Bolivia	*Análisis: Situación del Delito de Trata y Tráfico Enfocado en la Respuesta del Sistema Judicial y Policial y la Situación en Fronteras y Centros de Delito, en el marco de los alcances de la Ley N° 263*
Institution	Ministry of Justice
Year	2014
Access	http://vjdf.justicia.gob.bo/images/cargados/files/analisis-trata.pdf

Brazil	**Enafron**
Institution	Ministry of Justice
Year	2014
Access	http://vjdf.justicia.gob.bo/images/cargados/files/analisis-trata.pdf

Mexico	*Diagnóstico sobre la situación de Trata de Personas en México*
Institution	*Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos*
Year	2013
Access	http://200.33.14.34:1033/archivos/pdfs/diagnosticoTrataPersonas.pdf

Peru	*Rutas de la trata de personas en la Amazonía peruana*
Institution	*Capital Humano y Social (CSH) Alternativo*
Year	2016
Access	http://www.chsalternativo.org/trata-de-personas-en-el-peru/418-rutas-de-la-trata-de-personas-en-la-amazonia-peruana/file

U.S.	**2017 Trafficking in Personas Report**
Institution	Department of State
Year	2017
Access	https://www.state.gov/j/tip/rls/tiprpt/2017/

Mercosur	*Diagnóstico Regional: La trata de mujeres con fines de explotación sexual en el MERCOSUR*
Institution	*Reunión de Ministras y Altas Autoridades de la Mujer del MERCOSUR*
Year	2012
Access	http://www.mercosur.int/innovaportal/file/6463/1/web_trata_castellano_octubre_2012.pdf

Appendix # 6 | Information Resources: List of laws characterizing the crime of trafficking in persons in the countries of the region, in order of year of adoption/ entry into force

Country	Instrument	Year
United States[73]	Trafficking Victims Protection Act	2000
Dominican Republic	*Ley N° 137-03 Sobre Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y Trata de Personas*	2003
El Salvador	*Decreto Legislativo N° 210 tipificó la trata de personas como conducta delictiva en el Art. 367-B del Código Penal*	2004
Canada[74]	Criminal Code, Sections 279.01 (trafficking in persons) and 279.011 (trafficking in persons under 18 years of age)	2005
Colombia	*Ley N° 985 modificó el Código Penal*	2005
Guyana	Combatting of Trafficking in Persons Act	2005
Suriname[75]	Criminal Code, Art. 307	2006
Jamaica	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention, Suppression and Punishment) Act	2007
Peru[76]	*Ley N° 28.950 Ley contra la Trata de Personas y Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes, tipificó el delito de trata de personas en el Capítulo de delitos contra la libertad*	2007
Argentina[77]	*Ley N° 26.364 Prevención y Sanción de la Trata de Personas y Asistencia a Sus Víctimas por medio de la cual el Título III - Disposiciones Penales y Procesales modificó varios artículos del Código Penal y del Código Penal Procesal Ley N° 23.984*	2008
Bahamas	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention and Supression) Act	2008
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act No. 32	2008
Paraguay	*Ley N° 3.440 de 2008 por medio de la cual se modificó el Código Penal, Art. 129b y Art. 129c.*	2008
Uruguay	*Ley N° 18.250 de Migración, Art 78*	2008
Costa Rica	*Ley N° 8.720 de Protección a Víctimas y Testigos y demás sujetos intervinientes en el proceso penal que modificó Art. 172 del Código Penal*	2009
Guatemala	*Ley contra la Violencia Sexual, Explotación y Trata de Personas modificó Art. 202 Ter del Código Penal*	2009
Antigua and Barbuda	Trafficking in Persons (Prevention) Act	2010
Saint Lucia	Counter-Trafficking Act	2010
Chile	*Ley N° 20.507 introdujo modificaciones al Código Penal*	2011
Panama	*Ley N° 79 sobre Trata de Personas y Actividades Conexas, incorporó los títulos penales al Código Penal. Capítulo VI de la Ley - Disposiciones Penales y Procesales, SECTION 1 - Disposiciones Penales. Modificación del art. 179 del Código Penal y se adicionó el Capítulo IV, Delitos contra la Trata de Personas, Título XV, Libro Segundo del Código Penal*	2011
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act	2011
Bolivia	*Ley N° 3.325 Ley de Trata y Tráfico de Personas por medio de la cual se creó el Capítulo V Trata y Tráfico de Personas del Título VIII Delitos Contra la Vida y la Integridad Corporal de la Ley N° 1.768 de 1997 del Código Penal*	2012
Honduras	*Decreto Legislativo N° 59-2012 Capítulo X - Disposiciones Penales Art. 52*	2012
Mexico	*Ley General para Prevenir, Sancionar y Erradicar los Delitos en Materia de Trata de Personas y para la Protección y Asistencia a las Víctimas de estos Delitos, Título Segundo De los Delitos en Materia de Trata de Personas*	2012
Venezuela[78]	*Ley Orgánica contra la Delincuencia Organizada y Financiamiento del Terrorismo*	2012
Belize	Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Act	2013

Dominica	Transnational Organized Crime Act 13 (Prevention and Control)	2013
Trinidad and Tobago	Trafficking in Persons Act	2013
Ecuador	*Código Penal Art. 91*	2014
Grenada	Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act No 34	2014
Haití	Anti-traffciking Law No CL/2014-0010	2014
Barbados	Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act (TIPPA)	2016
Brazil	*Ley N° 13.344 modificó el Código Penal y Código Penal Procesal*	2016

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73 Since it was promulgated in 2000, the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* has been amended four times.

74 In the case of Canada, the *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*, should also be taken into account, especially Section 118.

75 Article 307 of the Criminal Code was amended again in 2015.

76 Law N° 30.251 of October 20, 2014 improved the legal characterization of trafficking in persons, particularly with respect to the text of Article 153 of the Criminal Code.

77 This law was later amended by Law N° 26.842 of 2012.

78 Prior to the Organic Law against Organized Crime and the Financing of Terrorism of 2012, it is important to point out that in 2000 the Organic Law for the Protection of Children and Adolescents had been passed establishing punishments for trafficking in children and adolescents for forced labor purposes. Later on, in 2007, the Organic Law on Women's Right to a Life free from Violence was promulgated, which includes trafficking as a form of violence against women and legally characterizes it by type of exploitation.

Appendix #7 | Information Resource: Specialized Units

Country	SPECIALIZED UNITS			
	Police	Public Prosecutor's Office	Judicial	Other
Antigua and Barbuda				Task Forces on cases
Bahamas	Trafficking in Persons Investigation Section of the RBPF Central Detective Unit			
Barbados	Sex Crimes and Trafficking Unit of the Royal Barbados Police Force			
Belize	Specialized Unit of the Police Department			
Bolivia	*División Nacional de Trata y Tráfico de Personas de la Fuerza Especial de Lucha contra el Crimen, Policía Boliviana*			
Chile	*Brigada Investigadora de Trata de Personas de la Policía de Investigaciones*			
Colombia		14 offices		
Dominican Republic		*Procuraduría Especializada contra el Tráfico Ilícito de Migrantes y la Trata de Personas (PETT)*		
Ecuador	*Unidad Especializada contra la Trata de Personas de la Policía Nacional*			
El Salvador	*Unidad Especializada en materia de Trata de Personas y delitos conexos de la Policía Nacional Civil*	*Unidad Especializada en materia de Trata de Personas y delitos conexos*		
Guatemala	*Sección contra la Trata de Personas de la División Especializada en Investigación Criminal (DEIC) de la Policía Nacional Civil*	*Fiscalía Especializada contra la Trata de Personas*	*Juzgados especializados en trata*	
Jamaica	Specialized Unit if the Jamaican Police Force	Trafficking in Persons Unit of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions		
Mexico		Specialized units for trafficking in persons offenses[79]		
Paraguay	*Unidad Especializada en investigación del delito de trata de personas de la Policía Nacional del Paraguay[80]*	4 specialized units responsible from criminal prosecution of the crime of trafficking in persons		

Peru		8 public prosecutors' offices specializing in human trafficking cases[81]	
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Anti-Trafficking in Persons Unit (ATIPU) in the Royal St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force		
Suriname	Unit specializing in trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants		
Uruguay		Courts specializing in organized crime cases	
United States		Department of Justice, Human Trafficking Prosecution Unit (and Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section)	Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams Enhanced Collaborative Model (ECM) Task Forces
Venezuela	*Dirección General contra la Delincuencia Organizada de la Policía Nacional Bolivariana* *División contra la Delincuencia Organizada del Cuerpo de Investigaciones Científicas, Penales y Criminalísticas*	*Dirección General contra la Delincuencia Organizada del Ministerio Público*	

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79 In its reply to Question 27 of the questionnaire, Mexico mentions the Office of the Special Prosecutor for Crimes of Violence against Women (FEVIMTRA).

80 Based on the reply to Question 26 in the questionnaire, this Specialized Unit of the Paraguayan National Police also assists victims of trafficking in persons.

81 In Peru, the eight specialized public prosecutor's offices are located in Cusco, Loreto, Puno, Tacna, Tumbes, Madre de Dios, Callao, and Lima.

Appendix #8 | Information Resources: Criminal Investigation Protocols

Country	Chile
Title	*Guía de buenas prácticas en la investigación criminal del delito de trata de personas*
Institution	*Mesa Intersectorial sobre Trata de Personas*
Year	2015
Access	http://tratadepersonas.subinterior.gov.cl/media/2015/07/Gu%C3%ADa-de-Buenas-Pr%C3%A1cticas-en-la-Investigaci%C3%B3n-Criminal-del-Delito-de-Trata-de-Personas.pdf

Country	Colombia
Title	*Protocolo de investigación y judicialización del delito de Trata de Personas en Colombia*
Institution	*Ministerio del Interior y Ministerio de la Justicia y el Derecho con apoyo de la Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito*
Year	2015
Access	https://www.unodc.org/documents/colombia/2016/marzo/PROTOCOLO_DE_INVESTIGACION_Y_JUDICIALIZACION_Sede.pdf

Country	Jamaica
Title	Guidelines for investigation
Institution	Equipo de Tareas Nacional Contra el Tráfico de Personas (NATFATIP)
Year	2007
Access	http://dpp.gov.jm/sites/default/files/pdf/Trafficking%20in%20Persons.pdf

Country	Paraguay
Title	*Manual de Procedimientos Operativos*
Institution	*Unidad Especializada contra la Trata de Personas y Explotación Sexual, Ministerio Público Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)*
Year	2014
Access	http://paraguay.iom.int/sites/all/archivos/Manuel%20de%20Procedimientos%20Operativos.pdf

Country	Paraguay
Title	*Manual para la Investigación Penal de la Trata de Personas*
Institution	*Unidad Especializada contra la Trata de Personas y Explotación Sexual, Ministerio Público Organización Internacional para las Migraciones (OIM)*
Year	2014
Access	http://repository.oim.org.co/handle/20.500.11788/1471

Country	Uruguay
Title	*Protocolo de investigación para delitos de violencia basad en género*
Institution	*Ministerio del Interior y Fiscalía General de la Nación*
Year	2016
Access	https://www.minterior.gub.uy/images/pdf/protocolos/prot_genero.pdf

Country	Trafficking Hotline	Institution responsible
Argentina	Line 145 for complaints, cost-free, nationwide	Co-administered by the Ministry of Justice and the Office of Public Prosecutions for Trafficking Offenses
Bahamas	Local hotline, trafficking in persona	Unspecified
Chile	Line for complaints to the *Brigada Investigadora de Trata de Personas*	Investigative Police
Colombia	Cost-free, nationwide hotline for trafficking in persons cases 01-8000 522020	Ministry of the Interior
Guatemala	Telephone line 110 to report possible cases of trafficking in persons	Policía Nacional Civil
Guyana	Hotline for trafficking in persons cases 592 227 4083	Unspecified
Honduras	Immediate Response Team cellphone: 8990 5187	
Mexico	Telephone line for Violence against Women and Human Trafficking Offenses 01-800 00 854 00	Office of the Special Prosecutor (FEVIMTRA)
	Nation-wide line to denounce trafficking cases 01-800 5533 000	Unspecified
Peru[82]	Cost-free nationwide telephone line 1818 Option 1	Ministry of the Interior
Dom Rep	Cost-free, confidential telephone line for victims	Unspecified
Suriname	TIP hotline	Unspecified
Trinidad and Tobago	Hotline 800-4CTU	Anti-Trafficking Unit, Ministry of National Security
U.S.	Cost-free, nationwide, direct and confidential hotline 1-888 373 7888 (or TTY: 711) with text and chat functionalities.	Department of Health and Human Services, operated by an NGO grantee.

83 Peru launched its 1818 hotline by joining up three cost-free services: 0800-16016 (Anti-corruption), 0800-23232 (Trafficking in Persons), and 0800-19800 (Organized Crime).

Appendix #10 | Information Resource: Directory of Telephone Lines for Reporting to the Police

Country	Type of telephone line	Institution responsible
Antigua and Barbuda	Gender issues hotline 463-5555	Unspecified
Bahamas	Local domestic violence hotline	Unspecified
Brazil	*Ligue* 180 telephone line	Special Secretariat for Policies for Women
Canada	Telephone line for anonymous complaints about harassment in the workplace	Department of Employment and Social Development
	Alleged cases of harassment may also be reported using the cost-free and confidential hotline 1-866-602-9448	Department of Employment and Social Development
Colombia	Telephone number COLLABORATE 120	Ministry of Labor
	Specialized telephone line for the Prevention and Attention of Sexual Violence 01-8000 112440	Colombian Family Welfare Institute
	Cost-free national telephone number 155 for Violence against Women	Presidential Advisory Office on Women's Equality
	Cost-free national number 153	*Migración Colombia*
Costa Rica	Telephone lines	*Oficinas de la Dirección General de Migración y Extranjería*
El Salvador	Emergency telephone line 126	*Instituto Salvadoreño para el Desarrollo de la Mujer*
Mexico	1000-2000	Executive Committee for Victim Assistance
Paraguay	Emergency line 137SOS Mujer	*Ministerio de la Mujer*
United States	Cost-free hotline 800-424-9098	Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense
	Telephone line: 1-202-693-6999	Office of the Inspector General, Department of Labor
	Cost-free telephone line 1-800-397-6251	Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP), Department of Labor
	Hotline: 1-866-487-9243 (1-866-4USWAGE)	Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor
	Cost-free telephone line 1-800-669-4000	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Uruguay	Cost-free consultation line 0800 7272	*Instituto Nacional de las Mujeres, Ministerio de Desarrollo Social*
	Cost-free consultation line 0800 7171	*Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social*
	Cost-free line (blue line) 0800 5050	*Ministerio del Niño y Adolescentes para niños/as y adolescentes*
Venezuela	Cost-free hotline 0800-MUJERES (0800-6853737)	*Ministerio para la Mujer y la Igualdad de Género*

Appendix #11 | Information Resource: Directory of "Thematic" Telephone Lines

Country	Telephone line for reporting crimes	Institution responsible
Antigua and Barbuda	Denunciations/complaints over the phone	Police
Barbados	Police hotline	Police
Bahamas	Telephone line	Ministry of National Security
Chile	*Fono Denuncia Telephone line*	Carabineros
Costa Rica	Telephone lines	*Fuerza Pública*
Ecuador	Anonymous Telephone line 1 800 335486 (DELITO)	*Ministerio de Interior*
Haiti	Telephone line	Police
Honduras	Over the phone reporting	*Policía Nacional*
Saint Lucia	Police telephone line	Police
Suriname	Hotline	Police
United States	Telephone line 1-806-347-2423 Telephone line to provide information 1-802-872-6199	Department of Homeland Security
Uruguay	Telephone line 2 152 46 00 / 2900 68 64	*Ministerio del Interior*

Appendix #12 | Information Resources – Victim Protection and Assistance Protocols

País	Nombre del Instrumento
Bahamas	General Protocols for the identification, protection and referral of victims
Bolivia	*Guía de Actuación Migratoria para la Detección Temprana en Situaciones de Trata y Tráfico de Personas*
Chile	*Guía de Detección y Derivación de Víctimas de Trata de Personas*
Colombia	*Protocolo de Atención a Víctimas de Trata de Personas* *Guía de procedimientos, acciones y estrategias de Prevención e Intervención en Derechos Humanos*
Costa Rica	*Protocolo de Actuación del Equipo de Respuesta Inmediata* *Modelo de Atención para Sobrevivientes-Víctimas de Trata de Personas*
DR	*Protocolo para la Identificación, Asistencia y Reintegración de Sobrevivientes de Trata de Personas* *Protocolo de Detección, Asistencia y Referencia de Niños, Niñas y Adolescentes Víctimas de Trata de Personas*
Ecuador	*Protocolo Nacional Unificado para la Protección y Asistencia Integral a Personas Víctimas de Trata*
El Salvador	Unspecified
Guatemala	*Protocolo de Coordinación Interinstitucional para la Protección y Atención a Víctimas de Trata de Personas* *Guía de identificación de posibles víctimas de trata de personas y su correspondiente Hoja de Ruta*
Guyana	Unspecified
Honduras	*Protocolo de Actuación del Equipo de Respuesta Inmediata*
Jamaica	Victim Protection Protocol Victim Management Guidelines SOP Immigration SOP Police
Mexico	*Protocolo para el Uso de Procedimientos y Recursos para el Rescate, Asistencia, Atención y Protección de Víctimas de Trata*
Panama	*Protocolo de Actuación de la Unidad de Protección de Víctimas, Testigos, Peritos y demás intervinientes del proceso penal*
Paraguay	*Protocolo general de atención a personas afectadas por la trata de personas en Paraguay* *Protocolo de Asistencia a Personas Victimizadas por la Trata de Personas y la Gestión de Derivaciones* *Protocolo para la Certificación de Victimización por Trata de Personas* *Protocolo de evaluación de riesgos de persona victimizada de la Trata* *Protocolo de Detección, Asistencia y Derivación de Casos de Trata de Personas (for consulates)*
Peru	*Protocolo para la atención y protección de víctimas y testigos del delito de trata de personas* *Protocolo del Ministerio Público para la atención de víctimas del delito de trata de personas* *Protocolo Intrasectorial para Víctimas de Trata de Personas* *Protocolo Intersectorial para la Prevención y Persecución del Delito y la Protección, Atención y Reintegración de Víctimas de Trata de Personas*
UY	*Protocolo Único de Atención a Mujeres en Situación de Trata con Fines de Explotación Sexual* *Protocolo de Actuación para el abordaje de la trata de mujeres, niñas, niños y adolescentes con fines de explotación sexual comercial en las embajadas y oficinas consulares* *Guía de Actuación ante consultas y asesoramiento en materia de derechos fundamentales de los trabajadores (capítulo especial de atención a trabajadores con mayor vulnerabilidad a la trata con fines laborales)* *Guía de actuación interinstitucional para la respuesta inmediata frente a casos de trata con fines de explotación sexual*
U.S.	Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States (2013-2017)
Mercosur	*Protocolo de funcionamiento del Mecanismo de Articulación para la Atención a Mujeres en Situación de Trata Internacional* *Guía Mercosur. Atención a mujeres en situación de trata con fines de explotación sexual*

Appendix #13 | Information Resource: Statistical Reports on Trafficking in Persons

Country	Reporte	Enlace
Argentina	*PROTEX Informe Estadístico*	http://bit.ly/2oU1r6D
Brazil	*Informe Nacional Sobre Trata de Personas: Datos 2014 a 2016*	http://bit.ly/2Ftv9ZB
	Informe Nacional Sobre Trata de Personas: Datos 2013	http://bit.ly/2FhqSZU
	Informe Nacional Sobre Trata de Personas: Datos 2012	http://bit.ly/2tqEzjQ
	Informe Nacional Sobre Trata de Personas: consolidación de datos de 2005 a 2011	http://bit.ly/2FjgSPU
Chile	*Informe Estadístico Sobre Trata de Personas en Chile 2011-2017*	http://bit.ly/2FnPkF7
	Informe estadístico sobre Trata de Personas en Chile 2011-2016	http://bit.ly/2oUVzsN
	Informe estadístico sobre Trata de Personas en Chile 2011-2015	http://bit.ly/2tmrCHB
	Informe estadístico sobre Trata de Personas en Chile 2011-2014	http://bit.ly/2Fnd8Jd
Ecuador	*Delitoscopio Informe Estadístico La Trata de Personas en Ecuador 2013*	http://bit.ly/2FtX4si
Guatemala	*SVET Estadística*	http://bit.ly/2FgSgay
Peru	*Estadísticas de Trata de Personas 2010-2016*	http://bit.ly/2D7iu9j
U.S.	Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program 2016	https://bit.ly/2PRJsIh

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