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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Media Release

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Launch on the release of the UN Anti-Human Trafficking Training Manual

Today, at 2.30pm, Bangkok time, the *United Nations anti-human trafficking training manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners* was launched at the United Nations in Bangkok, Thailand.

In line with the Trafficking in Persons Protocol supplementing the United Nations Organized Crime Convention, the purpose of the *UN Training Manual* is to support criminal justice practitioners in the prevention of human trafficking, the protection of its victims, the prosecution of its culprits and in the international cooperation needed to achieve these goals.

The *Training Manual* was launched by anti-trafficking Ambassador-at-large, Luis CdeBaca. Ambassador CdeBaca was appointed by United States President Obama in May of 2009 to direct the US State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons. A highly-decorated anti-human trafficking expert, Ambassador CdeBaca has led successful prosecutions against over 100 human traffickers involving the liberation of over 600 victims in the United States. He was himself actively involved in the development of the *United Nations anti-human trafficking training manual for Criminal Justice Practitioners*.

The *UN Training Manual* is the result of a global cooperative process initiated by UNODC. In addition to Ambassador CdeBaca, expert representatives from academia, NGOs, international organizations, law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges from all over the world, gathered on four occasions at UNODC headquarters in the Vienna International Centre to share their expertise and experiences in fighting human trafficking.

Speaking on the occasion of the launch of the *UN Training Manual*, UNODC Regional Representative for East Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Gary Lewis, discussed the prevalence of human trafficking throughout the world. "I can imagine few crimes more terrible than the sale of women and children for sexual exploitation and forced labour. Slavery is not something which is receding into the depths of history," he said, "In almost every country on the planet hundreds – often thousands – of people's lives are for sale. Their lives are auctioned off to the highest

bidder for sexual and commercial exploitation. More often than not, these victims are children and young women. This should fill our hearts with shame.”

Among the various reasons that human trafficking thrives today, Mr Lewis noted that “one reason is that while convictions are increasing, impunity is immense. The criminals who commit this crime are often highly organised. They cooperate across borders, overcoming their differences in order to achieve their goal of profiting through the exploitation of others.”

Another reason mentioned by Mr Lewis is that “those who would stop this crime, do not choose to see it. Even when they see it, they choose to do nothing.” He added, “Today, we add another chapter to the global call to action. To those charged with the responsibility for confronting human trafficking I say – we too must transcend our various petty and bureaucratic challenges to implement the urgent goals of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol. This tool for law enforcers is another step towards realizing this goal.”

Explaining the process that went into the creation of the modules, involving experts from Africa, from Asia, from the Middle East and from Europe, Ambassador CdeBaca said that “In the same spirit of cooperation with which this Manual was created, so too must its use be a cooperative, global process.”

Useful Websites for further information:

UNODC homepage on anti-human trafficking:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/index.html

United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT)

www.ungift.org

UNODC Blue Heart Campaign against Human Trafficking

www.unodc.org/blueheart/

UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/global-report-on-trafficking-in-persons.html

UNODC publications on human trafficking:

www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/publications.html

Biography of US Ambassador Luis CdeBaca

www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/biog/124083.htm