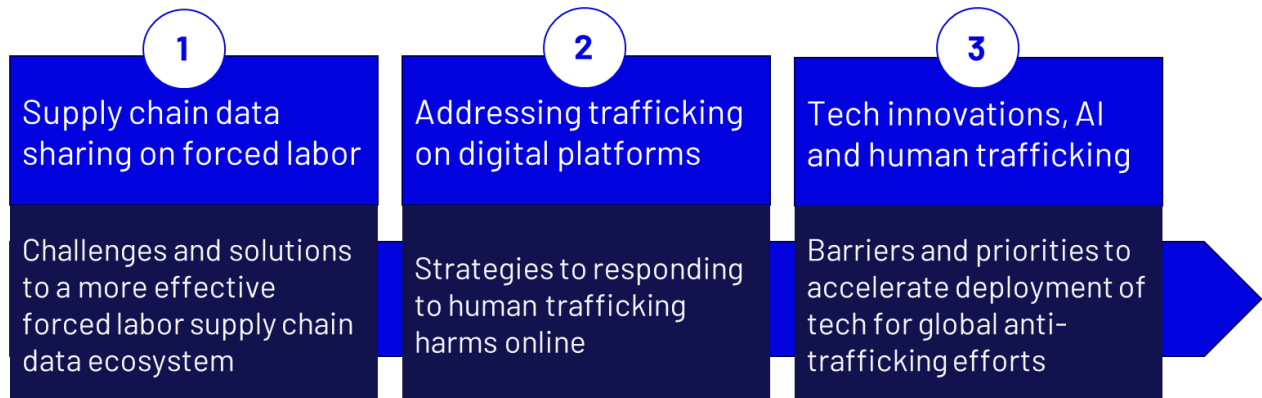# HANDS-ON SESSIONS

**Tech Against Trafficking Summit 2024**

## Summary Outcome Document

December 2024

**TECH AGAINST TRAFFICKING**

# I. BACKGROUND

During the 2024 Tech Against Trafficking Summit, over 160 anti-trafficking and tech leaders from global multinational companies, governments, and civil society organizations (CSOs) convened to discuss practical challenges and solutions related to the Summit's three core tracks.

| **1** Supply chain data sharing on forced labor | **2** Addressing trafficking on digital platforms | **3** Tech innovations, AI and human trafficking |
|---|---|---|
| Challenges and solutions to a more effective forced labor supply chain data ecosystem | Strategies to responding to human trafficking harms online | Barriers and priorities to accelerate deployment of tech for global anti-trafficking efforts |

This document captures key discussion points and recommendations for strategic action by the technology and anti-trafficking field. The insights outlined in this document will inform TAT's activities in 2025.

## II. TRACK 1: SUPPLY CHAIN DATA SHARING ON FORCED LABOR

### OVERVIEW

Building upon its [seven system-wide principles](#) issued in early 2024, Tech Against Trafficking has launched a global program to  contribute to the creation of an effective federated data ecosystem over the long term. In this view, this session aimed to get participants input on forced labor risk data standardization.

With over 40 participants from multinational companies, corporate suppliers, data providers and governments, the hands-on session considered **current data collection efforts on forced labor** and **priorities for businesses** and other stakeholders to enable a more effective supply chain data ecosystem on forced labor.

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Businesses, governments, and CSOs are collecting a range of data points to assess the risk of forced labor in the supply chain,** including on the International Labour Organization (ILO) indicators, information related to business operations, worker profiles, and contracts and complaints handling. Self-Assessment Questionnaires (SAQs) and physical audits continue to be a predominant way that businesses collect data on forced labor from suppliers, with up to 40 questions on forced labor. Worker voice data is gaining traction, but it is challenging for business to incorporate given that it relies predominantly on qualitative data.

- **The ILO indicators offer a useful blueprint for business, although these remain imperfect.** There is a lack of clarity about precise actual or proxy data points collected for each indicator. Most companies formulate questions on ILO forced labor indicators in their human rights risk assessments tools—including supplier SAQs and audit tools—although each organization differs in their approach, which presents challenges for broad sector-wide analysis. Certain ILO indicators are more ambiguous and difficult to obtain information for than others.

- **There is an appetite to narrow and streamline the field of data points collected by business**, which would in turn enable better tracking and understanding of changes in behaviors over time. More research is needed to assess the most effective means of signaling the actual or potential presence of forced labor and conduct this streamlining exercise.

- **The current data collection system is "extractive" for information-holders.** Primary data providers—including suppliers, workers, and survivors—are not kept informed about how their data is used, and there is no system of rewards or compensation for the provision of data.

- **There is scope to think more creatively about data points which are less extractive in nature**. There may be opportunities to obtain signals of forced labor without collecting significant amounts of information directly from workers, at least, in the initial desktop assessment phase. Data points may include businesses' financial health, satellite data, supplier sentiment, and environmental degradation.

- **There is an absence of financial and non-financial incentives for corporate suppliers and smaller business actors to provide information on forced labor and to strengthen human rights management systems**. Potential incentives to consider include the introduction of preferential terms, awarding of free data, free storage, and changes in length of contracts (e.g., from 12 to 15 months).

## THREE PRIORITIES FOR 2025

**For business**

**1** Conduct a mapping of current forced labor indicators to understand the data points currently collected across SAQs and audit systems, and identify opportunities to consolidate information.

**For civil society**

**2** Continue to partner with business and other stakeholders such as third-party platforms to identify how field research and information collected by anti-trafficking organizations can inform companies' due diligence efforts on forced labor.

**For Tech Against Trafficking**

**3** Convene multistakeholder group to streamline and consolidate list of forced labor data points in alignment with ILO indicators.

*"We need to crack **systemic change** and move away from taking a punitive approach to making small business players feel like it's a journey."*

*Hands-on session participant*

## III.   TRACK 2: ADDRESSING TRAFFICKING ON DIGITAL PLATFORMS

### OVERVIEW

To leverage the collective expertise of the participants, the session utilized two group exercises inspired by the *Liberating Structures* facilitation method.  The session brought a multistakeholder group—from companies, governments, and civil society—of around 30 participants together to identify actual challenges they have been experiencing in their work in the response to online trafficking. They discussed potential achievable solutions that would not require large amounts of change or investment to put into practice.

### KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- **To effectively combat online trafficking, it's crucial to break down silos between different stakeholders to foster collaboration and coordination.** By establishing neutral multistakeholder workgroups or leveraging existing collaborative platforms (e.g., TAT), stakeholders can share resources, information, and best practices.  Additionally, cross-sector partnerships, especially with sectors like finance and child safety, can further enable information and resource sharing. This collaborative approach will enable a more comprehensive and coordinated response to the complex issue of online trafficking.

- **While there are limited resources for companies and organizations to address online trafficking issues on their own, there are opportunities to leverage technology and collaborate to share resources to maximize their impact.** Scaling up the use of advanced technologies, like machine learning, can enhance detection capabilities and streamline investigative efforts. By collaborating across sectors, such as financial services and child safety, organizations can share insights, tools, and technologies.

- **The rapidly evolving tactics employed by traffickers necessitate a dynamic and adaptive response to keep up with emerging threats and trends.** By sharing information and collaborating with law enforcement agencies, stakeholders can stay up-to-date with such trends. Implementing advanced detection technologies, such as on-device Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM) detection, can help identify and prevent the spread of harmful content. Furthermore, standardizing user reporting mechanisms across platforms and educating the public about online

safety and privacy trade-offs can empower individuals to protect themselves and report suspicious activity. It is also crucial that policymakers are aware of emerging trends in order to design flexible policy that is adaptive and practically enforceable to evolving harms.

- **Effective information sharing and analysis are crucial for identifying and disrupting trafficking networks.** By establishing secure platforms, forums, or mechanisms for sharing information, such as trends, data, patterns, and indicators, stakeholders can enhance their knowledge of the issue and investigative capabilities. Collaborating with law enforcement agencies and financial institutions can facilitate the exchange of critical information and lead to more effective investigations. Further information gathered with survivors and experts can inform data collection and analysis. Such information sharing must be conducted in a privacy-compliant way and facilitated by neutral parties (e.g., TAT).

- **To effectively combat online trafficking, policy coherence is essential.** Harmonizing regulations across different jurisdictions will create a more unified global response and reduce opportunities for exploitation. The European Union's Digital Service Act and the United Kingdom's Online Safety Act are two examples of policies that can be leveraged to combat online trafficking, but also demonstrate the potential for policy fragmentation that companies will need to comply with. Additionally, it is crucial to ensure that policies are flexible and adaptable to emerging threats, while also respecting all individuals' privacy rights and ensuring compliant work-arounds like anonymizing data sets.

- **Involving survivors, impacted groups, and their representatives is essential for developing effective solutions.** By actively seeking input from individuals with lived experience and incorporating their perspectives into practice and policy, stakeholders can ensure that their needs are prioritized. When conducting such engagement, there is a need to close the feedback loop so that survivors are informed on how the information they provide is leading to change.

## THREE PRIORITIES FOR 2025

*Non-exhaustive list of generated "15% Solutions" based on participants' input during the hands-on session. These "15% Solutions" are small-scale tips or tweaks that are intended to be implemented now, and they do not require further investment, resources, or significant amounts of capacity or time.*

**For business**

**1** Conduct deep-dive investigations into platform activity in geographic areas where there is a higher prevalence or likelihood of online trafficking/scams taking place.

**For civil society**

**2** Build partnerships for more centralized information sharing with companies, so companies don't need to manage separate relationships with each CSO.

**For Tech Against Trafficking**

**3** Create alignment on terms and definitions related to online trafficking so that actors are consistently speaking the same language. Create a community of practice across tech companies to leverage their collective expertise and share best practices.

*"Companies are now developing content policies that take survivors' experiences and feedback into account as solutions. Previously policies have been focused on the traffickers, but increasingly we're reaching out to victims.... **We should rely on survivors' stories and lived experiences to help further harm from occurring.**"*

*Hands-on session participant*

# IV. TRACK 3: TECH INNOVATIONS, AI, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING: THE ROLE OF MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

## OVERVIEW

Effective, thoughtfully deployed technology solutions can be catalytic for organizations hoping to advance and scale the impact of their work. During this session, over 40 participants explored the barriers that prevent effective deployment of technology solutions, and identified practical ways in which governments, the private sector, and CSOs can collaborate to enable the uptake of tech innovations, including AI, to combat human trafficking.

## KEY DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Not enough is done to include perspectives of the end-users from the Global South in anti-trafficking technologies**. Cultural nuances may impact technology application. A lack of cultural adaptation, meaning the exclusion of perspectives from anti-trafficking experts across different geographies, may result in limiting the potential of technology and/or even resulting in harms for those in situations of human trafficking (in terms of accuracy and bias of data).

- **Lack of tech literacy and language barriers limit the impact of tech solutions.** Most anti-trafficking organizations, particularly those in middle- to low-income countries, lack the technical know-how and literacy to be able to provide input into the design of anti-trafficking tech solutions. Technologists should help anti-trafficking organizations articulate their expertise, knowledge, and inputs in a way that is usable and processable by technology.

- **Funding is short-term and does not allow investment in tech solutions.** Deploying advanced technological solutions is expensive, and governments and CSOs working to combat human trafficking often operate on limited short-term budgets, making it difficult to invest in cutting-edge tools. Funders need to prioritize longer-term funding for the use of technology in anti-trafficking efforts and better information sharing about technology resources available.

- **The anti-trafficking technology marketplace is crowded and noisy**, making it difficult to identify the most promising technology solutions for a particular purpose or context. The lack of mapping of existing solutions or transparency may lead to missed opportunities and wasted resources.

- **End-user trust is essential for the effective deployment of tech solutions.** Often, tech solutions lack sufficient transparency, making potential users reluctant to adopt them. If end-users are not provided information about why their data is being collected, or if they are not given any choice or power on how their data will be used, they will likely not trust the tech solutions, which will limit their potential impact.

- **Ethical survivor inclusion needs to be prioritized in tech design and deployment.** Lived experience experts are not sufficiently called upon to inform the design and deployment of tech tools. Survivors should be given more voice and space as they know the strategies of traffickers and understand the experiences of victims and survivors. There is a lack of awareness and training for trauma-informed and victim-centered approaches that can enable tech developers to work more effectively with survivors.

## THREE PRIORITIES FOR 2025

**For business**

**1** Engage end users in the design of technology solutions to ensure they are contextually relevant. This should include collaboration with survivor organizations, businesses, and other stakeholders in the global south who might be impacted by the technology.

**For civil society**

**2** Develop a comprehensive map detailing where funding efforts are going to ensure resources are distributed fairly across anti-trafficking solutions. This will address underserved areas, avoid redundancy, and promote effective coordination.

**For Tech Against Trafficking**

**3** Promote multistakeholder partnerships in the design and deployment of technology by including the expertise of persons with lived experience and others in the global south who might use or be impacted by the technology.

*"Technology is not the destination, but a powerful tool. It should always be designed and deployed with the needs, values, trust, and lived experiences of people at its core."*

*Hands-on session participant*

# ANNEX

## OVERVIEW OF TECH AGAINST TRAFFICKING

Tech Against Trafficking (TAT) is a coalition of leading technology companies collaborating with global experts to help eradicate human trafficking and modern slavery using technology.

Founded in 2018, TAT's current members include Amazon, Google, HPE, Meta, Microsoft, and TikTok. TAT supports the anti-trafficking field by tapping into these companies' technical expertise, capacity for innovation, and global reach. Together, this group works with anti-trafficking experts to identify and scale promising technologies and address the misuse of technology to facilitate human trafficking.