



## **Economic and Social Council**

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### **Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice**

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Item 3 of the provisional agenda

**Thematic discussion: Trafficking in human beings,  
especially women and children**

Statement submitted by International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, (non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council); Associated Country Women of the World, International Commission of Catholic Prison Pastoral Care, International Society of Social Defense, Italian Centre of Solidarity, National Council of German Women's Organizations, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs and International Movement of Catholic Students), School Sisters of Notre Dame, Socialist International Women, (non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council), International Police Association (non-governmental organization on the Roster). \*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

### **Trafficking in human beings, especially women and children**

*The undersigned non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the  
Economic and Social Council,*

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\* The present document is reproduced in the form in which it was received.

*Recalling* General Assembly resolution 55/25 of 15 November 2000, in which it adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto,

*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 56/120 of 19 December 2001, in which it requested the Secretary-General to provide the Centre for International Crime Prevention with the resources necessary to enable it to promote, in an effective manner, the entry into force and implementation of the Convention and the Protocols thereto,

*Recalling further* General Assembly resolution 57/168 of 18 December 2002, reiterating among others the importance of ensuring the speedy entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two other Protocols thereto,

*Appreciating* the ratification of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime by 31 States Parties and the ratification of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, by 23 States Parties as of 17 February 2003,

*Also recalling* General Assembly resolutions 56/261 of 31 January 2002 and 57/170 of 18 December 2002 on the plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century and specially referring to the related articles,

*Gravely alarmed* by the continuing and increasing complex global crime of trafficking in persons, including transnational high technology as a means,

*Expressing* their concern at the fact that often poor living conditions of human beings are misused by unscrupulous traffickers,

*Taking into account* that so far organized criminal groups are drawing enormous profit with almost no risk out of this trafficking,

*Paying special attention* to the fact that the overwhelming majority of targeted and trafficked persons are women and children, who have to bear the harm caused by that crime and to defray the damage inflicted upon, without obtaining any compensation or support whatsoever,

*Being aware of* the massive underreporting of trafficking in and violence against persons, especially women and children, who fear negative consequences,

*Mindful of* the fact that many victims of trafficking in persons have been deprived of their identity and travel documents by the traffickers and are not sufficiently protected as victims,

*Deeply concerned* about the alarming situation of trafficked children, who are clearly in the weakest position, seriously affected in their development and usually badly hampered for the rest of their lives,

*Bearing in mind* the negative impact of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on whole societies,

*Convinced* that preventive measures have, inter alia, to be taken at economic, social, cultural and political levels,

*Invite the Commission to urge Governments, to:*

*Sign and ratify* the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, to promote a speedy entry into force,

*Adhere to and implement* already existing legally binding instruments in the related fields,

*Respect and use* United Nations Standards and Norms in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as a prerequisite for an effective fight against transnational organized crime and trafficking in persons,

*Strengthen* international cooperation to create a conducive environment for strong actions against trafficking in human beings by promoting growth and sustainable development and reducing poverty and unemployment,

*Start* awareness raising campaigns to inform the public about the disastrous crime of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and its impact on societies in order to develop and strengthen the political will to successfully pro-act and react against this crime,

*Develop* strategies to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking,

*Take measures* and ensure adequate training to promote speedy cooperation between border control, immigration, police and justice agencies making them concentrate on the involvement of organized criminal groups dealing with trafficking in persons,

*Give* adequate incentives to the police to increase detection of crimes concerning trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Promote* special training and education of administrative personnel, police, criminal justice officials, practitioners and professionals involved in the criminal justice system regarding all relevant human rights instruments, as well as gender and child sensitivity, with respect to victims of trafficking in persons,

*Ensure* empowerment of women and children through education, including on their human rights,

*Enhance* donor cooperation in areas with crime prevention aspects,

*Provide* the funds necessary to enable the Centre for International Crime Prevention to offer technical assistance at various levels that the Convention and the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, are put into practice,

*Establish* an international fund for support of victims of transnational organized crime and design specific projects for female victims and child victims of trafficking in persons,

*Offer* possibilities to provide victims of trafficking in persons with adequate compensation,

*Cooperate* with related non-governmental organizations to utilize their knowledge and support and co-finance their strategies to prevent and combat trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Do the utmost* to improve the situation of victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, whose rights have been neglected too long.