Statement of the Women’s Federation for World Peace at the Constructive Dialogue on Smuggling of Migrants

October 9\textsuperscript{th}, 2023, UN Vienna, (in person)

My name is Merle Soquila – Blaschke

First I want to say thank you to the organisers for this opportunity to share some thoughts:

“As a migrant myself, I have to say that the main reason why people mostly from the underdeveloped countries migrate is due to poverty and lack of employment opportunities in their country of origin or because there is a conflict or war or because of the effect of the environmental disasters etc.

So most of the time their desperation to go out in search of a living and to look for greener pastures makes them more vulnerable and they become an easy target for the smugglers of migrants. In many cases those who want to migrate have no idea of what awaits them and their main purpose is to help their families to have a better life by sacrificing their emotions to earn a living in a foreign land where everything is new to them. So the long journey begin! This always involved with a fee and mostly a massive extra amount of money.

The sad thing is that some out of desperation would sell their last property or even make a loan to be able to fund their journey which is most likely a very risky move on the part of the migrants but they do it anyway. If they are successful in their attempt then they might get a job and managed to legalize their situation in their host country.

I have to say that I am one of those who made it and I consider myself one of the lucky ones so I am here now to testify this to you all. And to prevent this massive migration from the grassroots, community – based projects are essential which promote social inclusion, quality education, and at the same time contribute to environmental protection.

This is why I initiated the “MOON LIGHT SOLAR LAMP Project”. It teaches young people with technical abilities to manufacture their own solar lamps. A prototype has been created with a long lasting power and also it can recharge mobile phones.

Apart from very personal experience we want to mention that WFWP International has 140 chapters globally, among others in the area of education, vocational trainings, and supporting young entrepreneurs, supporting permaculture etc.

Thank you for listening!