• Thank you Mr Chair.

• At the outset my delegation would like to thank panelists for their interesting and insightful presentations.

• And, our sincere thanks also go to the Secretariat for the most recent, highly useful discussion paper on this theme which sets the stage for our discussion today.

• There are many important proposals contained in the discussion paper. My delegation would like to take this opportunity to highlight the recommendation indicating the need to ensure that prosecutors and law enforcement are appropriately trained on human rights and on victim-centered, gender- and age-sensitive and trauma-informed approaches when interacting with victims and survivors.

• Canada wholeheartedly endorses this recommendation.

• Indeed, we believe that it is crucial to use a victim-centered approach in all efforts to prevent and combat Trafficking in Persons.

• Supporting victims in a way that recognizes the impact of the trauma caused by the exploitation they have experienced not only assists in their healing, but also in their ability to provide solid evidence in a court of law, should they choose to do so.

• A victim-centered and trauma-informed approach therefore increases success in our investigations and prosecution and helps to reduce impunity.

• Mr. Chair, when appropriate resources are made available, alternate avenues of investigation can be pursued. Victim testimony may be replaced or corroborated by other types of evidence, thus reducing the instances where victims have to testify and bolstering their credibility when they do.

• As the discussion paper makes clear, information from Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) can be helpful in this regard.

• Financial intelligence can often support the testimonies of victims by corroborating the various stages of the trafficking process. For example, hotel, transportation, or escort advertisement transactions can be identified in financial transaction reports.

• By utilizing all possible sources of information, including financial intelligence, a victim’s testimony is corroborated and enhanced and law enforcement investigations are more likely to lead to successful prosecution.
• Furthermore, this method contributes to a more effective criminal justice process that minimizes the impact on victims and helps to alleviate further suffering as a result of their experiences.

• Thank you, Mr Chair.