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**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA  
WORKING GROUP ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS  
VIENNA, 2-3 OCTOBER 2023**

**Agenda Item 2: Emerging Knowledge and Practice Regarding the  
Prevention of and Response to Corruption in the Context of  
Trafficking in Persons**

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Thank you.

1. Foremost, Malaysia wishes to thank UNODC for the comprehensive background paper and all distinguished panellists for the enlightening presentations.
2. Malaysia remains committed in observing international legal principles, norms, and practices in tackling corruption, particularly those related to human trafficking. Like other member states, Malaysia believes that corruption could limit investigations and prosecutions of crimes related to trafficking in persons (TIP). Thus, the importance of combating corruption is an essential strategy to end human trafficking.
3. In recent years, the nexus between trafficking and corruption has garnered attention as experts were of the view that human trafficking could not be perpetrated on a large scale without corruption. However, much of what we know about the intersection of corruption and trafficking is subjective and many countries do not have access to pertinent information related to corrupt practices and their link to trafficking in persons, for various reasons.
4. Malaysia is of the view that corruption enables traffickers and perpetrators to evade justice. Thus, law enforcement officers as well as the members of the bench play a crucial role in ensuring that any form of corruption does not exist within the realms of the justice system.
5. One of the main challenges is to investigate and prosecute corruption offenses committed before exploitation occurs as human trafficking offences. We acknowledge that prosecutions for trafficking and corruption are rare and a challenge as evidence is difficult to gather and even harder to establish the intersection between corruption and trafficking in complex cases. Therefore, the

anti-corruption law may be used with regards to tackling this situation.

6. Towards this end, in efforts to tackle Trafficking in Persons, Malaysia wishes to encourage the international community to further strengthen the existing efforts in tackling corruption in trafficking in persons. In this regard, **Malaysia would like to recommend member states to enhance collaboration, increase training and work in proximity with each other, and with their respective national anti-corruption agencies to effectively fight corruption in trafficking crimes.**

With that, I thank you.