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Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children, which constitutes a serious crime and a grave offence to human dignity and physical integrity, a violation and abuse of human rights and a challenge to sustainable development and which requires (a) the implementation of a comprehensive approach that includes partnerships and measures to prevent such trafficking, to prosecute and punish the traffickers, to effectively identify, protect and support the victims of such trafficking and to intensify international cooperation and other prevention efforts and (b) a criminal justice response proportionate to the serious nature of the offence,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with or address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime¹ and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,³ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women⁴ and the Optional Protocol thereto,⁵ the Convention on the Rights of the Child⁶ and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,⁷ and the Convention for the Suppression of the

¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

² *Ibid.*, vol. 2237, No. 39574.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2241, No. 39574.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2131, No. 20378.

⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 2171, No. 27531.



Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,⁸ as well as relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and the Human Rights Council on the issue,

Recognizing the crucial importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which provides an internationally agreed definition of the crime of trafficking in persons aimed at the prevention of trafficking in persons, the protection of victims and the prosecution of the perpetrators,

Recalling the resolution entitled “Launch of the review process of the Mechanism for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto”,⁹ adopted at the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 October 2020,

Welcoming the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,¹⁰ adopted by the General Assembly at its high-level meeting during the seventy-sixth session, in which Member States reiterated, in the strongest possible terms, the importance of strengthening collective action to end trafficking in persons,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking in persons contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women¹¹ and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development,¹²

Reaffirming also the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹³ and the commitments made by world leaders at the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, and in this regard acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda, inter alia, addresses the elimination of all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking in persons and sexual and other types of exploitation; the eradication of forced labour, modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour; and the ending of abuse, exploitation, trafficking in persons, all forms of violence against and torture of children,

Recognizing the importance of a revitalized global partnership to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the implementation of the goals and targets related to ending violence against women and girls and trafficking in persons, and in this regard taking note with appreciation of Alliance 8.7, the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, and the various initiatives of Member States to contribute to the global fight against trafficking in persons,

Welcoming the actions and efforts related to eradicating forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking, especially of women and children, in the Pact for the Future¹⁴ and its annexes,

⁸ Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.

⁹ CTOC/COP/2020/10, sect. I.A, resolution 10/1.

¹⁰ Resolution 76/7, annex.

¹¹ Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

¹² Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5–13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

¹³ Resolution 70/1.

¹⁴ Resolution 79/1.

Recalling the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted at the Intergovernmental Conference in Marrakech, Morocco, on 10 December 2018 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution [73/195](#) of 19 December 2018, which addresses, inter alia, the issue of trafficking in persons in the context of international migration,

Welcoming the convening of the first International Migration Review Forum in May 2022, as the primary intergovernmental global platform for Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the Global Compact, and the adoption of its Progress Declaration,¹⁵

Welcoming in particular the efforts of States, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children, including the implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution [64/293](#) of 30 July 2010 and the 2021 Political Declaration on the Implementation of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,

Recognizing the urgency of combating trafficking in persons in all its forms, including for the purposes of forced or compulsory labour, including of women migrant workers, and in this regard taking note of the adoption by the International Labour Conference on 11 June 2014, at its 103rd session, of the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), and of the Forced Labour (Supplementary Measures) Recommendation, 2014 (No. 203), of the International Labour Organization,

Welcoming, in the agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its sixty-eighth session,¹⁶ the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls, inter alia, the commitment of Governments to eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spaces, online and offline, such as sexual and gender-based violence, including trafficking in persons and modern slavery and other forms of exploitation, and to take appropriate measures to prevent and combat trafficking and raise public awareness about the risks of trafficking in persons, including women and girls, and the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, addressing all forms of associated violence, and discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour,

Noting with appreciation the efforts, including of the human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, other relevant special procedure mandate holders of the Council involved in trafficking in persons issues, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the crime of trafficking in persons, and encouraging them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Noting the relevant contributions of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,¹⁷ and her work in integrating a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout her mandate, in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

¹⁵ Resolution [76/266](#), annex.

¹⁶ *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2024, Supplement No. 7 (E/2024/27)*, chap. I, sect. A.

¹⁷ Most recently [A/79/161](#).

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,¹⁸ which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind the obligations of States to take appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of trafficking in women and girls, to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to protect and empower victims, and that not doing so may violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked within and between regions and States, as well as within and between developed and developing countries, and recognizing that trafficking in persons disproportionately affects women and girls and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking in persons, including for sexual exploitation and for the purpose of organ removal,

Highlighting the need to incorporate a victim-centred and trauma-informed, and gender- and age-sensitive approach, taking into account the specific needs of women and girls, including women and girls with disabilities, into all anti-trafficking efforts, and recognizing that women in vulnerable situations are particularly susceptible to trafficking in persons for the purposes of sexual exploitation and abuse, prostitution, forced labour and other forms of exploitation, and that girls are also susceptible to trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation and abuse, forced labour and harmful practices, including child, early and forced marriage,

Recognizing that pervasive gender inequality, poverty, unemployment, lack of access to quality education, lack of socioeconomic opportunities, barriers to accessing justice, gender-based violence, discrimination, including multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, harmful gender stereotypes and negative social norms, marginalization, persistent demand, conflicts, disasters, adverse impacts of climate change, as well as statelessness and migration status, are among the factors that make women and girls, including Indigenous women and girls, at heightened risk of trafficking in persons,

Noting with concern that some of the demand fostering sexual exploitation, labour exploitation and the illegal removal of organs is met by trafficking in persons, and recognizing that trafficking in persons is fuelled by high profits for traffickers and demand that fosters all forms of exploitation,

Recognizing the need to adopt or strengthen legislative or other measures, such as educational, social or cultural measures, including through bilateral and multilateral cooperation, to discourage the demand, which fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to trafficking in persons,

Recognizing also the role that men and boys can play as agents of change in addressing the harmful impact of gender stereotypes and negative social norms and in preventing sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, and underlining the need to educate and engage men and boys for this purpose,

Recognizing further the heightened risk of trafficking of women and girls in humanitarian crisis situations, in conflict and post-conflict situations, natural disasters, including those that result from or are exacerbated by the adverse impacts of climate change, pandemic situations, and other emergency environments, as well as the devastating consequences for women and girls in such circumstances, and noting in this regard the Migrants in Countries in Crisis initiative and the Agenda for the Protection of Cross-Border Displaced Persons in the Context of Disasters and Climate Change, resulting from the Nansen Initiative,

¹⁸ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

Recognizing that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, trafficking in persons, including for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, forced marriage, illegal adoption of children and recruitment and use of children by armed groups for active or support roles, can be prevalent, and in this regard expressing deep concern over its negative impacts on victims of trafficking in persons, and bearing in mind the obligation to respect and protect the human rights of all women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations,

Recognizing also the need to reinforce efforts regarding the provision of relevant documents, such as birth registration and identity documents, in order to lower the risk of women and girls of being subjected to trafficking in persons and to help to identify victims,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to preventing, prosecuting and combating trafficking in women and girls and to identifying, protecting and assisting the victims of trafficking in persons remain and that further efforts should be made to adopt and implement adequate legislation and other measures and to continue improving the collection and sharing of reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, nationality, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts and other relevant factors and of statistics, including gender statistics, that would allow proper analysis of the nature, extent and risk factors of trafficking in women and girls,

Recognizing that further work is required both to better understand the link between migration and trafficking in persons and to develop more effective responses to eliminate the risk of trafficking in persons in the migration process in order to, inter alia, further efforts to protect women migrant workers from all forms of violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse,

Reaffirming that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially in migration contexts and especially trafficking in women and children, demand the strong political commitment, coordinated and coherent efforts and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Concerned about the misuse of information and communications technologies, including the Internet, social media and online platforms, for the purpose of profiling, recruiting, controlling and exploiting children, including for child sexual abuse material, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation and abuse of children, as well as for child, early and forced marriage and forced labour, while acknowledging the role that information and communications technologies and artificial intelligence can play in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, assisting victims and eliminating the risk of sexual abuse and exploitation, including by empowering women and children to report such abuses, and by applying a safety-by-design approach to technology,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of national laws and international law and standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking in persons are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, disability, culture and religion or belief, as well as their origin, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking in persons, owing to pervasive and persistent gender inequality, are further disadvantaged and

marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking in persons, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to accurate information and recourse mechanisms, including access to justice, legal aid and legal protections in cases of violations and abuses of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Taking note of the Kyoto Declaration on Advancing Crime Prevention, Criminal Justice and the Rule of Law, adopted in March 2021,¹⁹ which expresses the importance of strengthening efforts to prevent, counter and combat trafficking in persons, including by supporting information and data collection and sharing as appropriate, through relevant technical assistance by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, addressing factors that make people vulnerable to trafficking, detecting and dismantling trafficking networks, including in supply chains, discouraging demand that fosters exploitation leading to trafficking, ending impunity of trafficking networks, conducting financial investigations and using special investigative techniques under the conditions prescribed by domestic law, and protecting victims of trafficking in persons,

Recognizing the importance of implementing a victim-centred and trauma-informed approach, with full respect for the human rights of victims, to prevent and counter all forms of trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation, including the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments, intergovernmental and civil society organizations, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders, to address, in a comprehensive manner, the problem of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and children,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, protection, rehabilitation and recovery, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender-responsive and age- and disability-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary and multicultural approach, taking into account the needs of victims with concern for their security and privacy and respect for their full enjoyment of human rights and with the involvement of all relevant actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General,²⁰ which provides information on measures by States and activities within the United Nations system to tackle trafficking in women and girls;

2. *Also takes note with appreciation* of the information submitted by Member States and United Nations entities on measures and activities undertaken to combat trafficking in women and girls, and urges Member States and United Nations entities that have not done so to submit the requested information for inclusion in the report of the Secretary-General;

3. *Takes note* of the reports of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children;²¹

¹⁹ Resolution 76/181, annex.

²⁰ A/79/322.

²¹ A/79/161 and A/HRC/56/60.

4. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

5. *Urges* Member States to consider signing and ratifying, and States parties to implement, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocols thereto,²² the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities²³ and its Optional Protocol,²⁴ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families,²⁵ as well as the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)²⁶ and the Protocol thereto, the Labour Inspection Convention, 1947 (No. 81),²⁷ the Migration for Employment Convention (Revised), 1949 (No. 97),²⁸ the Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111),²⁹ the Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138),³⁰ the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975 (No. 143),³¹ the Private Employment Agencies Convention, 1997 (No. 181),³² the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182),³³ and the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189),³⁴ of the International Labour Organization;

6. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons³⁵ and the activities outlined therein;

7. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental, regional, subregional and non-governmental organizations to prevent and address trafficking in women and girls and invites them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible, and encourages Member States to strengthen cooperation among all relevant actors to identify and disrupt illicit financial flows stemming from trafficking in women and girls;

8. *Takes note with appreciation* of the outcome document of the Regional Ministerial Conference on Human Trafficking and Smuggling in the Horn of Africa, known as the Khartoum Declaration, and calls for its effective implementation, including through technical cooperation and capacity-building, by the United Nations and the international community;

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vols. 2171, 2173 and 2983, No. 27531.

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2515, No. 44910.

²⁴ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2518, No. 44910.

²⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. 2220, No. 39481.

²⁶ *Ibid.*, vol. 39, No. 612.

²⁷ *Ibid.*, vol. 54, No. 792.

²⁸ *Ibid.*, vol. 120, No. 1616.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, vol. 362, No. 5181.

³⁰ *Ibid.*, vol. 1015, No. 14862.

³¹ *Ibid.*, vol. 1120, No. 17426.

³² *Ibid.*, vol. 2115, No. 36794.

³³ *Ibid.*, vol. 2133, No. 37245.

³⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. 2955, No. 51379.

³⁵ Resolution [64/293](#).

9. *Encourages* the Commission on the Status of Women to consider addressing the needs of, inter alia, women and girls subjected to trafficking in persons at its sixty-ninth and seventieth sessions, within the framework of the priority themes;

10. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to observe the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, in the context of the need to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons, protect the rights and dignity of victims and promote the empowerment of survivors of trafficking in persons;

11. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health, humanitarian action, natural disasters, conflict situations and post-conflict reconstruction, and the contributions of women to peacebuilding, peacekeeping and conflict resolution;

12. *Welcomes* the continued focus given by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) to ending violence against women and girls and to increasing women's equal access to economic opportunities, as well as its work on building effective partnerships for the empowerment of women and girls, which will contribute to the efforts to combat trafficking in persons;

13. *Calls upon* Governments to intensify their efforts to prevent and address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation and in this regard to put in place or to enhance preventive measures, including legislative and punitive measures to deter traffickers and exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

14. *Recalls* the basic principles on the right to an effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons³⁶ and encourages States to ensure the full recovery and well-being of trafficking victims through long-term, comprehensive reintegration support, including legal, economic, health, psychological and social support, including migration support, as appropriate;

15. *Calls upon* Governments to strengthen measures aimed at achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls and their equal and full enjoyment of all human rights, women's full, equal and meaningful participation in all spheres of life, free from all forms of discrimination and violence, and their leadership in society, including through education, economic empowerment, gender-sensitive social protection and promoting an increase in the number of women assuming decision-making roles in both the public and private sectors, to take further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness of and inadequate housing for women and girls in order to reduce their risk of being trafficked and, in that regard, to improve the collection and use of disaggregated data and gender statistics to inform such measures;

16. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate preventive measures to address the underlying causes and factors that increase the risk of trafficking in persons, such as poverty, including the feminization of poverty, underdevelopment and lack of economic opportunities, gender inequality, gender stereotypes and negative social norms, discrimination, gender-based violence, violence against women and girls, impunity for such violence, persistent demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services produced as a result of such trafficking, as well as other factors that encourage trafficking of women for all forms of sexual abuse and exploitation, including in prostitution, pornography and other forms of

³⁶ A/69/269, annex.

commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, as well as trafficking of girls for child sexual abuse and exploitation, child, early and forced marriage, forced labour and sale of children, including in the context of exploitative commercial surrogacy, and encourages Governments to enact or strengthen legislation, with a view to preventing and eliminating trafficking in persons, providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and punishing perpetrators, including public officials engaging in or facilitating trafficking in persons, through, as appropriate, criminal, civil and administrative measures;

17. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict, post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened risk of women and girls to trafficking in persons and exploitation and associated gender-based violence, inter alia, that is perpetuated by traffickers in digital spaces or through the use of technology, and to prevent the trafficking of affected women and girls through national, regional and international initiatives;

18. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender-responsive and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

19. *Also urges* Governments to ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking in persons continue to address the specific needs of women and girls and their participation in and contribution to all phases of preventing and responding to trafficking in persons, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation, such as sexual exploitation, and, in this regard, to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making at all levels, inter alia, in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of anti-trafficking legislation, policy and programmes, continuing implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking Protocol thereto, as an essential component of the peacemaking, stabilization and reconstruction process;

20. *Further urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental, non-governmental and private sector organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular, education for all, on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns carried out in collaboration with civil society and the private sector to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels, including awareness-raising campaigns against trafficking in persons and slavery, including modern slavery, targeted at groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking in persons, as well as at those who may fuel the demand that contributes to trafficking in persons;

21. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the sale, sexual exploitation and abuse of children, and on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in the fulfilment of their mandates;

22. *Urges* Governments to strengthen measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions, including legislative and punitive measures and other relevant policies and programmes, and to develop age-appropriate educational and training programmes and policies aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking in persons, as well as ensuring accountability for perpetrators, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

23. *Reaffirms* the central role of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the global fight against trafficking in persons, particularly in providing technical assistance to Member States, upon their request, to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

24. *Calls upon* Member States to take into consideration the challenges presented by new methods of profiling, targeting, recruiting, controlling and exploiting victims of trafficking in persons, such as the misuse of the Internet, social media, online platforms, the blockchain and other digital tools and technology, including artificial intelligence, by criminals, to take measures to develop targeted awareness-raising campaigns, including for law enforcement, front-line service providers and at-risk industries, to identify the signs of trafficking in persons, and to develop specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners;

25. *Encourages* Member States to establish or strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action,³⁷ to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, enhancing information-sharing, between and among Member States and intergovernmental bodies, such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), collecting data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, specific data collection and other technical capacities and mutual legal assistance, coordinating with a view to dismantling criminal networks involved in trafficking women and girls, and combating corruption and the laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking in persons, including by collaborating with financial institutions, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements, programmes and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking in persons as it affects women and girls;

26. *Urges* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for the purpose of the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs, as well as for the purpose of commercial sexual exploitation and abuse and sex tourism, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with the due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in persons in their custody;

³⁷ Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, the Agreement on the Cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States in Combating Trafficking in Persons, Human Organs and Tissues, the Inter-American Programme for the Prevention and Eradication of Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Smuggling of and Trafficking in Children, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

27. *Urges* Governments, in accordance with their respective legal systems, to take all appropriate measures, including through policies and legislation, to facilitate access to justice and protection for victims of trafficking in persons that is not conditional on their participation in criminal proceedings, as well as to ensure that victims of trafficking in persons are protected from prosecution or punishment for acts those victims have been compelled to commit as a direct consequence of having been subjected to trafficking in persons and that the victims do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted or punished as a direct consequence of their illegal entry or residence;

28. *Invites* Governments to consider establishing or strengthening a national mechanism, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's and women's rights organizations, youth-led organizations, faith-based organizations, migrant and diaspora organizations, and survivors of trafficking in persons, and where appropriate, their families, to ensure a holistic and coordinated approach to anti-trafficking policies and measures, with full respect for human rights, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, underlying causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially trafficking in women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking in persons disaggregated by, when feasible, income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts;

29. *Invites* the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, to continue to cooperate with international, regional and national mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, in consultation with Governments, relevant treaty bodies, special procedures, the specialized agencies, intergovernmental organizations, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, the private sector and other sources, including victims of trafficking in persons or their representatives, as appropriate;

30. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness on addressing the root causes that lead to all forms of exploitation of at-risk women and girls, in particular those in vulnerable situations, to eliminate the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour, to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

31. *Calls upon* Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, including sexual and reproductive healthcare services that include affordable treatment, care and support services for HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections, free of stigma and discrimination, as well as comprehensive information and voluntary counselling, and to take measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity;

32. *Also calls upon* Governments to promote the empowerment of women and girls, including survivors of trafficking in persons, in all stages of humanitarian response and to work to provide adequate access to redress;

33. *Encourages* Governments, in line with their obligations under international law, to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking in persons in the context of international migration, including by identifying and supporting victims of trafficking in persons, to prevent the criminalization of migrants who are victims of

trafficking for trafficking related offences, and to cooperate with relevant stakeholders to undertake or strengthen campaigns to inform migrants, including migrant women and girls, of the risks associated with trafficking in persons;

34. *Strongly urges* Governments to ensure coherence between the laws on and measures responding to migration, labour and trafficking in persons to respect, protect and promote the human rights of migrant women and girls throughout the migration and employment process as well as the repatriation process, when applicable, and to provide effective protection against trafficking in persons;

35. *Invites* States, together with relevant United Nations entities, to undertake further research into the links between migration and trafficking in persons to guide the development of age-sensitive and gender-responsive policies and programmes that address the vulnerability of women and girl migrants;

36. *Encourages* Governments to review and strengthen, as appropriate, the enforcement of relevant labour and other laws within their territories or jurisdictions that are aimed at, or have the effect of, requiring business enterprises, including recruitment agencies, to prevent and combat trafficking in persons in supply chains, and to periodically assess the adequacy of such laws and address any gaps;

37. *Encourages* the business sector to adopt ethical codes of conduct to ensure decent work and to prevent any form of exploitative practices that foster trafficking in persons, taking into account the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;

38. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations, including women's and women's rights organizations, to develop and implement gender-responsive and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking in persons and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims in ways that protect their privacy and identity, ensuring that all these programs are sensitive to the needs of persons with disabilities;

39. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration, health and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking in persons, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers, health service providers and other first response officials, is victim-centred and trauma-informed and conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination;

40. *Encourages* Member States to provide training and equip law enforcement and border control officials, as well as medical personnel, with necessary skills and abilities in identifying potential cases of trafficking in persons for the purpose of organ removal;

41. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are responsive to the particular situation of women and girls subjected to trafficking, and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear and with due regard for the protection of their privacy and their identity, and are available, when required, to the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender-, disability- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

42. *Emphasizes* the need to establish firewalls between immigration checks and labour inspections, and/or to ensure that labour inspections are conducted in such a way that does not put potential victims of trafficking in fear of immigration authorities or offences;

43. *Invites* Governments to intensify efforts aimed at the efficient prosecution and speedy disposition of cases of trafficking in persons, ensuring non-discrimination between men and women offenders, and, in cooperation with, inter alia, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to devise, enforce and strengthen systems and mechanisms for combating trafficking in persons, bearing in mind that criminal network members may be exploiting women and girls to evade accountability, and that trafficked women and girls should not be subjected to unjust prosecution in countries of destination in relation to their being trafficked, instead of the criminal network members;

44. *Encourages* Governments to develop and implement strategies that promote safe access to the use of media and to information and communications technologies, including for women and girls, to require media providers, including Internet, social media and online platform service providers, to adopt or strengthen measures to promote the safe and responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, social media and online platforms, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, particularly girls, and to prevent and eradicate trafficking in women and girls, including through increasing women's and girls' digital literacy and access to information;

45. *Encourages* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, relevant recruitment agencies and mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking in persons, the means used by traffickers, the rights of persons subjected to trafficking in persons and the services available to them;

46. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of disaggregated data including, as appropriate, in humanitarian responses, in line with do-no-harm principles, and in this regard takes note of the publication of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat trafficking in persons;

47. *Encourages* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

48. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and to provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officials and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims and survivors of trafficking in persons;

49. *Calls upon* Governments, and encourages relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations, to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or

exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel about the potential risks that victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, face of being subjected to trafficking in persons;

50. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,³⁸ the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights³⁹ and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families to include information and disaggregated statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to the respective committees, as applicable;

51. *Encourages* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery and to the United Nations voluntary trust fund for victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

52. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its eighty-first session a report that presents information on successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of human rights-based, victim-centred and gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive, multidimensional, multicultural and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons, including in the prosecution of traffickers and protection of victims.

³⁸ See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

³⁹ Ibid.