**Oral Intervention by the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW) before the CEDAW Committee on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration, 72nd Session, 22 February 2019**

On behalf of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), I thank the CEDAW Committee for this opportunity and honor to present. CATW is one of the oldest international non-governmental organizations working to end the trafficking and sexual exploitation of women and girls worldwide.

We commend the Committee for its undertaking in drafting a General Recommendation under Article 6 of the Convention, which mandates State parties to “take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.”

We are, however, concerned that the Committee is framing its General Recommendation on Article 6 within the context of global migration, which creates a grave risk of conflating the urgent obligations of State parties to ensure safe, orderly and humane migration for women and girls, on the one hand, with the trafficking in and exploitation of prostitution of women and girls, on the other. Furthermore, the title of the General Recommendation must include “and the exploitation of prostitution” as stated in Article 6.

***We respectfully urge the Committee, in its General Recommendation, to remind State parties:***

***-*** to evaluate their obligations under Article 6 within the totality of the Convention itself and within the existing frameworks of human rights principles and international law, including the Palermo Protocol andthe 1949 UN Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;

- to address the trafficking in and exploitation of prostitution within the context of harmful traditional practices, stereotypes and culturally accepted manifestations of violence and discrimination against women and girls, such as female genital mutilation, domestic violence, child marriage, widow burning, or sexual harassment, to name a few such practices, all of which perpetuate the status of women and girls as subordinate to men and boys;

- to recognize that the end goal of women and girls migrating is to find an environment in which they can fully enjoy their fundamental human rights, including the dignity of work and a life free of violence and discrimination, all of which are antithetical to trafficking, whose end goal is the exploitative system of prostitution, which dehumanizes and inflicts on women severe physical, mental and sexual violence, or even death;

- to recognize that, under international law, the system of prostitution, in which vulnerable and marginalized women are overwhelmingly represented, is not a form of labor; and that State parties must address the demand that fosters the exploitation of prostitution as per article 9.5 of the Palermo Protocol;

## - to develop comprehensive identification protocols, protective and rehabilitative measures, and other tools that will lead State parties to identify migrant women bought and sold in the sex trade as individuals deemed trafficked and exploited in prostitution under the provisions of the Palermo Protocol and to assist such women with full respect of their inherent and inalienable human rights.

Thank you.