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| **البعثة الدائمة لجمهورية مصر العربية**  **لـدى الأمـم المتحـدة ومنظمة التجارة العالمية**  **والمنظمـات الدولـية**  **فى جنيـف** |  | **Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt**  **to the United Nations Office, WTO**  **&International Organisations**  **in Geneva** |

**Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)**

**Half day general discussion on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration**

**22 February 2019**

Egypt thanks the Committee for its invitation to hold this half-day general discussion and commends the Committee’s efforts in combatting trafficking in women and girls and providing rehabilitation for its victims. Egypt also welcomes the new elected and re-elected members of the committee.

Egypt has taken several serious steps towards combating all forms of human trafficking crime, through adopting number of laws and legislations, such as Child’s law 1996, labour’s law 2003, Law no. 5/2010 that governs transplanting of human organs and law no. 64/2010 on Combatting and preventing Human Trafficking, which aimed at deterring human trafficking organized gangs, applying the appropriate penalty on perpetrators, protecting the victims and raising awareness regarding the various forms of this crime, such as women and children exploitation and human organs trafficking. The law characterized by guaranteeing the promotion and protection of human rights while combatting human trafficking as a crime.

Egypt acceded to the UN Convention against Organized Crime in 2000, and the protocol Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea, or Air in 2004, in addition to acceding to the Arab Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in 2010.

In order to bring national legislation in line with the prevalent concepts of combating trafficking, a law on anti-smuggling of migrants was enacted, Law 82/ 2016. The Law also provided for the establishment of the Coordinating National Committee for Combating and Preventing Irregular Migration and Human Trafficking (already established in January 2017). This Committee, which affiliated to the cabinet, functions as a standing and a specialized mechanism mandated with coordination nationally and internationally with respect to policies, plans, and schemes, established for the prevention of irregular migration and human trafficking.

The National Strategy for Anti-Human Trafficking was established in October 2016, which sought to develop a full system to ensure combating all forms of human trafficking crimes, especially in “women and girls” through four main pillars: prevention, active prosecution in compliance with rights and safeguards provided for by the Constitution and national legislation, providing necessary protection and rehabilitation for victims through an approach based on human rights and the partnership with the society.

The National Coordination Committee collaborated with IOM in updating the guidelines for collection of evidence, investigation, and prosecution in such crimes and for the protection of victims, which is meant to act as a reference to members of the judiciary, prosecution, and other stakeholders from law enforcement. In addition to preparing guidelines for diplomats and civil society, as well as developing a contract form for domestic workers that is mindful of the special nature of the relationship between the employer and employee in this type of employment; the contract also regulates and safeguards the duties and rights of both parties.

The National Committee collaborates with the NCs for Human Rights, Women and Childhood and Motherhood and non-governmental organizations to raise awareness in general of the crime of human trafficking and in particular regarding marriage for money and street children. The National Committee signed a collaboration protocol with the NC for Childhood and Motherhood to provide a safe shelter for women and girls who are victims of trafficking. The National Committee also in collaboration with the competent national authorities are studying a possibility to establish a referral mechanism for the human trafficking victims and victim’s support fund.

In judicial regulation, the Minister of Justice issued a decree establishing criminal circuits mandated with hearing human trafficking cases; in addition to the cooperation with the international agencies, such as UNODC, UNWomen, UNICEF … etc. and other donors (like the EU) in the field of providing training programs for the law enforcement personnel. Finally, the Egyptian Government is combatting human trafficking through providing social and economic support and protection programs to the families in need.