**Comments of Egypt**

**on the**

**DRAFT General recommendation on Trafficking in**

**Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration**

**Introduction:**

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that causes grave violations to human rights and dignity. According to statistics, women and girls constitute a significant percentage of victims and need a gender-specific approach in combating this crime. Increasing barriers to legal mobility rends legal mobility more difficult and create pretext for criminal networks to facilitate smuggling and exploit victims.

Despite the fact that the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crimes (UNTOC ) and the Palermo Protocol are widely signed, the crime is one of the most lucrative crimes and more efforts need to be done to effectively tackle it. Consistent implementation of the treaties related to protection of women and girls from trafficking and exploitation on the national level and among states on migration routes is often challenged by structural factors such as lack of technical capacity, resource limitation, lack of reliable data, legal protection gaps, root causes related to socio- economic conditions, in addition to demand on labour.

**General Remarks**

1. Emphasis on the factors related to demand on trafficking in women and girls need to be given, as the draft heavily focused on root causes, despite the fact that trafficking networks operate in countries of destination, transit and origin.
2. Relevant to the previous point, and as empowerment of women is a critical measure to decrease demand for trafficking in women and girls, We noticed that the draft GR is focusing mainly on gender equality while ignoring the other component of the equation, which is the empowerment of women. A focus on this component is highly needed in this regard.
3. More focus should be placed to assistance needed to enable some governments to implement the legal frameworks they have to protect the victims, prevent the crime and prosecute the perpetrators to ensure sustainable and efficient governmental efforts to combat this crime given the increasing complexity crimes’ techniques due to advancement of technology. This should include training and capacity building for all those involved in protection, prosecution and prevention of TIP, procuring and donating technology and equipment necessary to trace and investigate the crimes, legal cooperation between the countries of origin, transit and destination.
4. International cooperation is also key to address the existing gaps that allow criminal networks to exploit women and girls. While the GR is acknowledging the transnational nature of trafficking in persons, it did not talk on international cooperation which is highly needed according to the Palermo Protocol snd the different Political Declarations relevant to trafficking in persons.
5. With regards to the section on addressing trafficking in women and girls due to conflict and humanitarian crises, it should be clearly stated that trafficking in persons can amount to conflict-related sexual violence when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence or exploitation. Paragraph 15 needs to be modified as it gives the impression that TIP falls under the Rome Statue contrary to Articles 7 and 8 of the Statue.