**Global Youth Submission**

***The use of technology in facilitating and preventing contemporary forms of slavery***

Just as traffickers and perpetrators are innovating, so must we in our efforts. Thus, technology, digital information, and communication technologies are already and can continue to be used as opportunities and tools for driving concrete action to counter contemporary forms of slavery.

Recognizing the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and the fact that they have fewer opportunities to access technology and experience lower levels of digital literacy, all approaches must be gender transformative. Despite technology being used as a mechanism to facilitate and perpetuate contemporary forms of slavery, it can also be used as a powerful tool for understanding patterns, identification, prevention, disruption, remediation, and providing support to survivors. Furthermore, it plays a crucial role in increasing the efficacy of reliable data collection and sharing which improves the coordination of stakeholders, including between law enforcement, businesses, governments, civil society, and youth - at all levels.

Technological solutions can offer concrete and transformative opportunities to support in responding to and countering contemporary forms of slavery.

The implementation of such provisions must be underpinned by a high-level guiding philosophy that should be established before any considerations for how to design and employ technology in prevention efforts. This guiding philosophy must embody the principles that all due diligence measures must be focused on preventing risks to people, rather than risks to one's organization, business, company, or institution, based on inter alia, reputation, income, stock price, or penalties due to non-compliance discovered. This guiding philosophy should be the driving force behind how all solutions for combatting contemporary forms of slavery are developed, and continually revisited as the exploitation landscape changes and evolves.

In this regard, on behalf of over 70 young leaders in the field, to inform the report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, to the 78th session of the General Assembly, we recommend the following:

1. ***Reaffirm* the full, effective, and meaningful implementation of the Agreed Conclusions of the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women** which focused on the priority theme of “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”, recognizing that achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is a prerequisite to combat contemporary forms of slavery.
2. ***Call on* the United Nations system and Member States to ensure that the elimination of contemporary forms of slavery in the context of technology, and its broader context, is an essential component of all relevant deliberative, decision-making, and intergovernmental processes**, including the Global Digital Compact, SDG Summit, Summit of the Future.
3. ***Establish*, in partnership with civil society organizations and telecommunication companies, National Helplines** that are dedicated to identifying potential victims of contemporary forms of slavery and trafficking in persons; and that can subsequently assist in providing victims with adequate support, as well as to act as a hub for data collection, analysis, and sharing, to advance the understanding of and response to contemporary forms of slavery in a national context.

1. ***Ensure* access to safe, easily accessible, and anonymous reporting mechanisms**, with vulnerable demographics centered in design considerations. Such mechanisms must be designed with the target demographic in mind, as well as survivors/victims, to guarantee accessibility and a tool that is fit for purpose. This means recognizing that certain demographics may be disproportionately affected by contemporary forms of slavery, may not have access to technologies, have a negative view of reporting (especially if in settings where the community or family are perpetrators), and may need certain assurances that can facilitate reporting with confidence and safety. A further layer of confidence is that the reporting mechanism should be handled by an accountable and well-resourced body that can pass reports onto the most suitable groups, through leveraging partnerships with non-governmental organizations.
2. ***Increase* the use of smartphones to report crimes and access support; and in this regard, commit to forming partnerships with technological and grassroots organizations to develop smartphone applications** to support first-line responders and vulnerable workers, enabling a reporting mechanism and providing easier access to awareness and training resources and language translation services.

1. ***Support* frontline, grassroots civil society organizations by ensuring that human rights are promoted, respected, and fulfilled in the conception, design, development, deployment, evaluation, and regulation of technologies** and to ensure that they are subject to adequate safeguards to promote open, secure, stable, and accessible and affordable technologies, including information and communications technologies, as well as training on the use of technological devices, case management systems and other relevant skills to maximize their capacity to support vulnerable women and girls and survivors of contemporary forms of slavery.
2. ***Strength* court technology**, including recorded video or live streaming evidence and the efficient collation of court-ready documents from across disparate data sources to support survivors and contribute to the body of evidence that prosecutors are required to build to secure convictions, recognizing the structural barriers that survivors of contemporary forms of slavery face, including fear of deportation or retribution, and challenges to provide admissible evidence.
3. ***Encourage* the development of technological innovations to improve and strengthen the accessibility of support services both in person and online** for survivors of modern slavery and trafficking of persons, streamlining access to specific services including but not limited to psychological therapy, healthcare provisions, shelters, employment programs, and welfare assistance.
4. ***Recognizing* the importance of network connectivity** in enabling survivors, especially women, and girls, in all their diversity, in vulnerable communities, remote and rural areas, and areas cut off in terms of transportation and other forms of access, and in this regard ease the process of accessing support services, reporting, and identifying contemporary forms of slavery.
5. ***Increase* investment in data analysis tools to identify and act upon ways in which data collection and connection around contemporary forms of slavery can be improved**; in this regard, recognizing that there is limited data on experiences of contemporary forms of slavery in conflict and crisis settings, utilizing technology, undertake the systematic collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data on the risk of contemporary forms of slavery during climate-induced crises to inform evidence-based policies; ensuring data is disaggregated by gender, age, and marriage, to provide accurate information on best practices to reduce vulnerabilities to and prevent contemporary forms of slavery.

1. ***Invest* in partnerships with law enforcement to strengthen their needs, capacity, and capability to collect, analyze, and share relevant data efficiently** across agencies and other stakeholders at local, regional, national, and international levels, in a way that is necessary, proportionate, and sensitive to privacy.

1. ***Use* big data analytics to identify and analyze migration flows of vulnerable people and identify patterns**; and in this regard, use published data to inform policy and law enforcement measures as to where targeted interventions can best take place pertaining to prevention, protection, and prosecution.
2. ***Introduce* mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation, compounded by import controls** that prevent the import of goods produced using forced labor and other forms of contemporary slavery and labor exploitation, to improve traceability, transparency, and accountability of supply chain labor standards and workers’ rights, recognizing that global technological supply chains are tainted by forced labor, child labor and other forms of labor exploitation.
3. ***Use* blockchain or distributed ledger technology as an innovative and effective tool to respond to contemporary slavery in supply chain tiers**,recognizing the significant presence of contemporary forms of slavery, particularly forced labor, in global supply chains, and the disproportionate burden placed on women and girls in supply chains.
4. ***Encourage* the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and its tools to identify scam and phishing campaigns on the internet**, in partnership with technology companies to investigate the origins and locations of perpetrators of contemporary forms of slavery, to support law enforcement, while ensuring human rights-based criminal justice approaches are taken to prevent the criminalization of survivors/victims.
5. ***Recognizing* that social media is increasingly used to facilitate modern slavery; commit to urging social media companies to take action to identify, address, and prevent contemporary forms of slavery risks on platforms**, paying particular attention to the risks for women, girls, and children in all their diversity, in the context of trafficking for sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, and the sale of infants under the guise of adoption.
6. ***Commit* to introduce, or amend existing, modern slavery or human rights due diligence laws to require social media companies to report on actions taken to address contemporary forms of slavery** on their platforms, and to cooperate with governments to strengthen international accountability frameworks for social media companies.
7. ***Encourage* partnerships with social media companies, in meaningful consultation with survivors**, to spread awareness of the risks and identifiers of contemporary forms of slavery on social media platforms, and to break down harmful gender stereotypes, patriarchal attitudes, and cultural norms to prevent and protect all social media users from exploitation, especially women and girls, in all their diversity, through public information campaigns.
8. **Companies processing personal data and payments online should provide awareness-raising materials and role-specific training to their employees**, in partnership with non-governmental organizations and survivors, to build their capacity to identify suspicious activity and handle it appropriately. The tools used to spot and stop exploitation are only as good as the staff using them.
9. **Companies (especially those involved in processing transactions) should share data around suspicious activity**. Exploiters or victims may have multiple bank accounts attached to their identity; the sharing of data can allow the private sector to have a more holistic picture of activity which enables more effective investigations and due diligence.
10. **Both the private and public sectors should utilize tools such as adverse media screening (AMS).** AMS can be used to screen for cases of contemporary forms of slavery within direct/indirect suppliers or the area in which they operate. Identified exploitation linked to or in the area of a supplier can help inform up-to-date due diligence improvements to safeguard communities from which goods/services are procured. This needs to be done periodically to ensure an up-to-date understanding of risks posed to procurement is maintained.
11. ***Encourages* technology companies to partner with airports and border forces to streamline detection and prompt response for survivors of contemporary forms of slavery**, such as the installation of digital tablets in specific accessible areas, including bathroom stalls, to enable a potential victim to contact authorities and direct them to their location, in cases where they may have their smartphones and/or identification documents confiscated by their trafficker.