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The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and Other International Organizations at Geneva presents its compliments to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, and would like to refer to the call for contribution received from the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, regarding the SR's next thematic report on "The use of technology in facilitating and preventing contemporary forms of slavery", which will be presented to the General Assembly at its 78th session in October 2023. In that regard, the Permanent Mission has the honor to attach herewith the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's respond to the afore-mentioned request.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Special Procedures branch, the assurance of its highest consideration.





This questionnaire was prepared at the request of the Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Including Its Causes and Consequences, pursuant to resolution 51/15, within the context of preparing his thematic report to be presented to UN General Assembly during its 78th session to be held in October 2023 on “Using Technology to Facilitate and Prevent Contemporary Forms of Slavery”. Following are the key measures taken by the Kingdom in this regard:

- **Are there any positive measures (legislative, administrative, institutional etc.) that your government has taken to prevent the use of modern technology to facilitate contemporary forms of slavery? If any, please provide details on such measures.**

There are numerous measures taken by the Kingdom to combat trafficking in persons crimes, which made it achieve considerable progress in Trafficking in Persons Report prepared by US Department of State on Trafficking in Persons, progressing from Tier 3, which is the lowest tier to Tier 2 watch list) in 2020, and from that tier to Tier 2 in 2021.

- Among the measures taken by the Kingdom was the enactment of Anti-trafficking of Persons Law in 2009. The law includes provisions that conform to the regional and international standards for combating trafficking in persons, where it prohibited all forms of trafficking in persons described in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (Palermo Protocol), providing for the criminal acts and penalties of up to 15 year imprisonment, and fines of up to (one million riyals). The law nonetheless tightened the penalty in cases where the victim is a woman or a child, stressing that the consent of the victim in any of the crimes described in the Law shall have no bearing on determining the penalty.

Among the most prominent provisions of the law are that it prohibits trafficking in any person in any way, including coercion, threat, fraud, deceit, kidnapping, abuse of office, authority or power, abuse of a position of vulnerability, give money or benefits or receive the same to give control over a person under one's control for sexual abuse, forced labor or service, begging, slavery, slavery-like practices, servitude, removal of organs, or conducting medical experimentation, which are consistent with General recommendation No. 38 on trafficking in women and girls.

- In addition, the Kingdom ratified many conventions and protocols combating crimes of trafficking in persons, such as “The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment” and “The Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography”. Moreover, a National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking was formed including representatives from relevant government agencies, and a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation was signed between the Kingdom, represented by the Saudi Human Rights Commission, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which was endorsed by Royal Decree No. (M/109) of 18/07/2017). This memorandum aims to enhance cooperation in matters related to combating and preventing trafficking in persons, assisting, caring for, protecting and sheltering victims, developing activities and programs, and developing national capacities. Royal Decree No. M/91 dated 17/04/2019 was



issued also to approve a memorandum of understanding for technical cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, represented by the Saudi Human Rights Commission and the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons of the US Department of State signed on 19/09/2018.

- In addition, a number of labor attachés were opened in labor-exporting countries, which provides additional reassurance of eliminating and combating human trafficking crimes. These attachés will review recruitment procedures to ensure that they do not involve any form of human trafficking or any violation of human rights, besides their other roles.

- On another front, Prince Mohammed bin Salman's initiative to protect children in the cyber world was launched in 2020 to enhance protection and awareness of cyber security by providing support to children, parents, teachers and decision-makers around the world and raise awareness of cyber risks and threats. The initiative also aims to face multiple challenges, including cyberbullying, increasing targeting of children in the cyber world, impersonation, electronic harassment, and intellectual influence. The initiative also looks to enhance the cyber security for children, and to protect them in the cyber space, raising the awareness of children and parents regarding suspicious content on the Internet, clarifying the cyber risks, and cooperating to develop best practices and policies, and support implementation by assessing the level of awareness among children worldwide, launching training programs, and supporting decision makers and educators to use best practices to protect children online.

- Moreover, many training programs and course were held targeting law enforcement personnel, as previously explained, to help them detect and monitor human trafficking cases, and deal optimally with them, including prosecuting the violators, and providing the necessary support to the victims as per the Anti-trafficking of Persons law. Additionally, cooperation is currently underway with IOM to develop intensive training programs on the "Referral Program".

- **Are there examples of positive measures taken by IT companies to facilitate victims' access to protection, justice and redress? How they collaborate with relevant stakeholders in this regard.**

Among the positive measures taken to enhance victims' access to justice and redress, the "National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for Victims of Human Trafficking" was launched to record and follow up on human trafficking cases, starting from the detection of such cases until adjudication thereupon by the courts having jurisdiction over human trafficking cases, which were constituted in January 2020 to consider such cases by judges specialized in this type of crimes. This was coupled with instructing employees of the concerned authorities regarding the procedures that should be followed at each stage of prosecution in accordance with the Anti-trafficking of Persons law.

- Furthermore, a national team was formed to manage and follow up on human trafficking reports and cases. This team comprises more than 260 members from the bodies represented in the National Referral Mechanism, namely: (the bodies represented in the committee, in addition to a number of relevant bodies and civil society organizations) the national team is divided into a central team in Riyadh region and 12 sub-teams in all regions of the Kingdom. More channels for reporting human trafficking crimes were also provided and activated for easy reporting to the security authorities.
- There is also a number for contacting Human Rights Commission and an e-mail for the team receiving reports and following up on cases, in addition to a number for contacting the Ministry of



Human Resources and Social Development, and the Child Helpline of the National Family and Safety Program (NFSP).

- In addition, an icon was added to Kollona Amn App to receive reports of potential human trafficking violations, and to report human trafficking crimes. The application includes the following categories: forced labor, sex trafficking, forced begging, slavery-like practices, and organ trafficking.
- **What practical recommendations do you have for governments and IT companies to overcome these challenges?**

The Kingdom recommends that necessary measures be taken and strengthened to address the human trafficking phenomenon thus preserving human dignity and creating a healthy environment for all, stressing the need for adopting a special system compatible with regional and international standards to combat trafficking in persons in this ever-changing world, in addition to tightening penalties for violators, whether it is an imprisonment or a fine. Additionally, the Kingdom worked to facilitate victim's access to reporting channels allocating free numbers to receive complaints related to human rights violations, or providing an icon in mobile applications in more than one language. We also recommend that training programs be developed for the purpose of raising awareness and providing support to victims, together with establishing psychological rehabilitation centers for human trafficking victims.