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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, and would like to refer to the letter received regarding the call for inputs on **“Trafficking in persons, especially women and children”**. In that regard, the Permanent Mission has the honor to attach herewith contribution of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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, including its causes and consequences, the assurance of its highest consideration.





This document has been prepared in response to the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children about the request for countries interventions and contributions to the preparation of its report on trafficking in persons and gender, peace and security:

- **National action plans on women, peace and security which include comprehensive measures to prevent and respond to trafficking in persons for all purposes of exploitation**
- The Committee to Combat Human Trafficking was established by Council of Ministers Decision No. 244 of 12/07/2009 AD, within the Human Rights Committee. This committee comprises representatives from various governmental bodies and aims to collaborate with relevant agencies in combating trafficking in persons.

The mandates of the Saudi National Committee (NCCT) can be listed as follows:

1. Develop mechanisms for identifying victims of trafficking in persons and referring them to relevant entities, monitoring their conditions, and providing rapid support and assistance.
2. Increase awareness of trafficking in persons crimes and efforts to combat them through conferences, seminars, campaigns, awareness initiatives, and other activities, in coordination with the relevant entities.
3. Coordinate with relevant entities to collect information and statistics related to trafficking in persons.
4. Conduct research and studies on combating trafficking in persons in collaboration with the relevant entities.
5. Enhance national capacity in combating trafficking in persons through specialized training programs, in coordination with the relevant entities.
6. Monitor the activities and efforts of competent entities in the Kingdom in the field of combating trafficking in persons crimes and enhance cooperation.
7. Study topics related to combating trafficking in persons, communicate with relevant entities to ensure the information accuracy and take necessary measures in accordance to the legal procedures.
8. Produce an annual report detailing on the Kingdom's efforts in combating trafficking in persons.
9. Develop the strategy, plans and programs for the committee's operations, and submit them for approval to the President of the Human Rights Commission.



- **Trafficking in persons, enslavement and sexual slavery and transitional justice processes**
 - The Kingdom has taken many efforts to Combat Trafficking in Persons crimes. Such as The Kingdom's accession to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. After that, it has issued the Anti-Trafficking in Persons law, then formed the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCT). Moreover, Article (2) from the Anti Trafficking in persons law stipulates that: "it is prohibited to commit any act of trafficking in persons, including coercion, threat, fraud, deceit, or abduction of a person, abuse of position or power or any authority thereon, taking advantage of the person's vulnerability, giving or receiving payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person for the purpose of sexual assault, forced labor, services, mendicancy, slavery or slavery-like practices, servitude, removal of organs, or for conducting medical experiments thereon".
 - In addition, the justice processes go through specific prosecution phases to ensure a fair trial. It starts when the initial evidential entities refer the tip case to the specialized Public Prosecution Office in handling TiP cases (PPO). The PPO conducts an investigation into those accused of trafficking in persons ensuring the victim's rights, interest and willingness to being involved in the process. After the investigation stage is completed, the PPO refers the case to the Court. The court process goes into several stages of the trial. These stages encompass reviewing evidence, hearing statements from both sides, questioning, and several crucial steps aimed at ensuring fair proceedings for all parties involved. The steps entail initiating charges, conducting pre-trial hearings to address matters like scheduling and monitoring the progress of any services or conditions imposed on the defendant, handling pre-trial motions, readiness hearings, and finally the trial itself, which involves opening statements, witness examination, evidence presentation, and closing arguments. Subsequently, the judge issues a judgment based on these proceedings.



- **Trainings for relevant personnel to identify, document and denounce situations with risks of trafficking**

The kingdom has provided several relevant trainings over the past few months through the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking (NCCT), including the following topics:

- Identification, referral, and assistance of TiP victims especially women (considering gender aspect in the protection and assistance procedures) in cooperation the UNODC.
- The national and international framework for prevention and prosecution in TiP cases, in cooperation the UNODC.
- Identification of TiP victims and trauma informed approach, in cooperation the UNODC.
- Identification and referral of TiP victims and Trauma informed approaches to care, cooperation the IOM.
- Applying best practices in border management, in cooperation with UNODC.
- **National procedures for early identification, assistance and referral to protection services for victims or potential victims of trafficking**
- The Kingdom's national referral mechanism (NRM) for victims of trafficking is mandated to identification, assistance and referral to protection services for victims or potential victims of trafficking.

It acts in line with procedures set with the aim of enhancing the multi-entities response process. It defines the roles and responsibilities of the entities according to their functions. The management of cases is entrusted to the NRM Unit within the Secretariat of the (NCCT). This responsibility involves overseeing the actions taken, and resolving any obstacles or challenges encountered by the NRM team.

The following provides an overview of the procedures associated with each stage:

- **First stage:**

1. Filing of a potential TiP case.
2. Recording the case and screening for indicators in line with the set procedures, while adhering to the forms established for this purpose.
3. Contacting the victim and referring them to shelters and ensuring their relocation to a safe environment if needed.



4. Moving to the subsequent stage, maintaining ongoing coordination, as well as taking necessary actions as may be required.

-Second Stage:

1. Rescuing the potential victim, separating them from the trafficker, and relocating the victim to a safe place.
2. Receiving the victim and providing essential services and assistance.
3. Conducting a comprehensive medical examination to ensure victim's wellbeing.
4. Conducting forensic medical examination (depending on the victim's condition, the nature of the violations, particularly in cases where the age of the victim is unidentified).
5. Carrying out a risk assessment.
6. Screening for TiP indicators.
7. Approving the screening results.
8. Assigning a professional specialist to monitor the behaviour in cases where the victim is a child.
9. Referring the case to the Law Enforcement to complete the necessary procedures.
10. Moving to the subsequent stage and maintaining coordination on the procedures of previous stage.

- Third Stage:

1. Concluding the initial evidentiary procedures by the competent entity and referral to the Public Prosecution.
2. Initiating investigation procedures and designating the individual as potential victim by the Public Prosecution.
3. Issuing a sheltering order by the PPO as may be needed.
4. Moving to the subsequent stage -as may be needed-, while maintaining coordination.
5. Concluding the investigation, finalizing the case paperwork, and referring the case to the competent court.
6. Commencing trial procedures by the competent court.
7. Ensuring the fulfillment of the victim's rights in accordance with article 15 of the Anti-TiP law.
8. Issuance of the court order.



- Fourth stage:

1. Coordinating efforts to provide the victim with healthcare and psychological care.
2. Continuing the provision of support and assistance to the victim including sheltering
3. Informing the victim of their legal rights and obtaining their consent on the steps to follow.
4. Appointing a legal representative to act as a proxy for the victim.
5. Appointing a legal guardian for the child victim.
6. Obtaining the public prosecution's consent – during the investigation/court proceedings – for the victim's voluntary return to their country of origin.
7. Coordinating with the relevant entities to conduct risk assessments to ensure that there are not risks associated with the victim's return to their country of origin if they are requesting return.
8. Moving to the subsequent stage while maintaining the coordination on the procedures of previous stages.

- Fifth stage:

- Holding a case conference (when needed), involving the members of the central team of the NRM, to discuss the case, review the steps taken thus far and the next steps.
- Voluntary repatriation to the country-of-origin procedures.
- Procedures for voluntary departure to a third country if the case decides to go for this option.
- Procedures for staying in the Kingdom (Reintegration).
- Procedures to eliminate obstacles that impede departure or residence in the Kingdom.
- Coordination procedures with international organizations regarding the reintegration assistance and case follow up post arrival to the destination.
- Coordination procedures with diplomatic missions in the Kingdom to facilitate the repatriation of victims, and child victims, through diplomatic channels.
- Coordination procedures with the MoH (in special cases where health escorts are needed).
- Coordination procedures with Saudi diplomatic missions abroad.



- **Sixth stage:**

1. Coordinating with relevant entities to ensure the provision of health care services.
 2. Coordinating with relevant entities to provide assistance in employment, income-generating activities, or small- scale projects.
 3. Working with relevant entities to provide support for adequate housing if needed.
 4. Engaging with relevant entities to provide support for education if needed.
- **Relief, recovery and assistance programs which ensure effective access to reparations for victims of trafficking**

In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, victims of trafficking are offered care services starting from receiving the case, until ensuring the victim is fit for reintegration into the society. The services provided to the trafficking victims including the following:

- Shelter services.
 - Health and psychological care services.
 - Legal services.
 - Financial services.
 - Translation services.
 - Assist in all procedural process, including the elimination of any existing obstacles.
- **Responses to trafficking in persons in the context of climate related conflict and displacement, incorporating a gender dimension**
 - There is no impact has been observed regarding trafficking crimes and climate change in the Kingdom. The Kingdom has proactively addressed the linkages between TIP and Climate Mobility by incorporating awareness workshops in the Anti- Trafficking National Action Plan for 2024-2027. Currently, there are ongoing explorations with the (IOM) to delve deeper into this crucial topic and develop potential initiatives in response.
