

*August 2022***Written Contribution on the Formulation of an Elements' Paper for the Declaration on Future Generations: Modern Slavery (Contemporary forms of Slavery), Trafficking in Persons and Child Labour.****1) What practical ideas/suggestions could be included in the Declaration to deliver on the commitment to take the interests and needs of future generations better into account?**

Our practical recommendations for Member States to be included in the Declaration, to deliver on the commitment to take the interests and needs of future generations better into account, in the context of countering contemporary forms of slavery (modern slavery), trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, and child labour are:

1. *Reaffirm in the strongest terms possible* their commitment and strong will to fully, effectively and meaningfully ratify and implement, as a matter of priority, all relevant international instruments relating to countering contemporary forms of slavery (modern slavery), trafficking in persons, especially of women and children, and child labour, and to take concrete action to address these issues in all their forms, wherever they may occur.
2. *Commit* to the full respect of the human rights of survivors of modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour, recognizing their roles as agents of change in the global fight against trafficking in persons, acknowledging the need to incorporate their perspective and experience in all efforts to prevent, suppress and counter modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, and commit to center the full, effective, and meaningful engagement, participation and inclusion of survivors in all efforts and decision-making to counter trafficking in persons, as co-leaders, co-creators, and co-owners, at all levels.
3. *Reaffirm, in the strongest terms possible*, the value and role of youth and young people in countering modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, and in this regard, commit to center the full, effective, and meaningful engagement, participation, and inclusion of youth in efforts and decision-making to counter trafficking in persons, as co-leaders, co-creators and co-owners, at all levels.

4. *Commit* to addressing the root causes of modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, including, *inter alia*, poverty, gender inequalities, the education crisis and climate change, and in this regard, recall and reaffirm the commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recognizing that each of the Sustainable Development Goals intersect with the issue of trafficking in persons, and in this regard reaffirm the importance of multistakeholder and intergenerational partnerships to fulfill such commitments.
5. *Reaffirm* the importance of the ratification and the full and effective implementation of all relevant national and international instruments that address modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, including, *inter alia*, the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography (2000); Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in Armed Conflict (2000); the International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Convention Forced 29 Labour (1930), Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, Convention 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour (1957), Convention 182 on the Elimination of Worst Forms of Child Labor (1999), and Convention 189 on Domestic Workers (2011); the United Nations Convention on Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; and the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.
6. *Commit* to international cooperation to facilitate safe, regular and ordinary migration, both internally and internationally, including by implementing measures to integrate migrants into their new communities via mechanisms such as information campaigns, formal training before migration, supporting access to remedy at non-state levels and providing access to adequate basic services at both sources and destination, and in this regard, commit to implement and strengthen relevant international legal instruments and promote effective international cooperation to facilitate safe internal and international migration, noting the impact of crises, from conflict to climate, to reduce vulnerabilities to modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour.
7. *Commit* to the full, effective and meaningful implementation of all six commitments outlined in the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labour, as the outcome of the 5th Global Conference on the Elimination of Child Labour, including through:

- a. Making decent work a reality for adults and youth above the minimum age for work by accelerating multi-stakeholder efforts to eliminate child labour, with priority given to the worst forms of child labour;
  - b. Taking concrete action to end child labour in agriculture;
  - c. Strengthening the prevention and elimination of child labour, including its worst forms, forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons, and the protection of survivors through data-driven and survivor-informed policy and programmatic responses;
  - d. Realizing children's right to education and ensuring universal access to free, compulsory, quality, equitable and inclusive education and training;
  - e. Achieving universal access to social protection;
  - f. Increasing financing and international cooperation for the elimination of child labour and forced labour.
8. *Commit* to mandating comprehensive and universal education around modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour in primary and secondary school curricula, tailored to national contexts, through partnerships with non-governmental organizations and most importantly, with youth organizations, networks, collectives and young individuals.
9. *Commit* to forming partnerships with corporates and the private sector to promote decent work, skills-based education and employment opportunities for survivors of modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour.
10. *Commit* to ensuring survivors of modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, especially children, are not criminalized nor threatened with detention, deportation, or other forms of punishment for crimes committed during their period of exploitation, or as a direct result or consequence of their exploitation, including, *inter-alia*, breaches of laws, immigration procedures, possession and use of forged official documents, or drug offenses; and in this regard, ensure survivors are provided with the relevant humanitarian, legal and financial support through established channels of assistance.
11. *Reaffirm* the understanding that gender inequality in its social, economic, cultural, and political contexts are factors that make girls, and youth vulnerable to modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, and in this regard, reaffirm the crucial importance of adopting a gendered lens, addressing negative social norms that sustain gender inequality and discrimination, including the culture of tolerance towards sexual and gender based violence that makes women, girls and youth particularly vulnerable to modern slavery, trafficking in

persons, and child labour; and commit to taking strong efforts to promote the inclusion of more girls and youth in leadership positions and all decision-making processes.

12. *Express serious concern* over the significant impact of crises, from conflict to climate, on modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour recognizing that modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour in light of crises disproportionately affects girls and youth, and in this regard, call upon Member States to enact or update national laws and establish comprehensive policies, programs and other measures that provide for the protection of trafficked persons from revictimization and appropriate assistance and protection, stressing the importance of coordinating both national and international cooperation to enhance the positive effects of all efforts.
13. *Commit* to mainstreaming considerations to counter modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour in all humanitarian responses, including through the implementation of multi-pronged action plans in all humanitarian responses across all forms of internal crisis displacement, including climate-induced displacement; recognizing that girls and youth, who already face disproportionate risk to modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, are even more vulnerable during climate-induced crises, with particular note to the increased vulnerability girls and youth in Pacific Island Countries faced in the wake of natural disasters and where limited land rights intersected with climate change to increase risks of forced marriage and domestic servitude.
14. *Recognizing* that there is limited data on experiences of domestic violence and trafficking in persons in conflict and crisis settings, commit to undertake the systematic collection of comprehensive and disaggregated data on the risk of domestic violence and modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour 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 risk, especially where multiple crises intersect, such as conflict and climate change.
15. *Recognizing* that modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour are exacerbated by climate change, commit to fulfilling existing commitments and intensify climate action efforts, recognising that modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour often occur alongside environmentally destructive industries, including illegal logging, mining, agricultural and fishing activities that further contribute to environmental degradation, and in this regard,

implement and increase the frequency of monitoring of high-risk sites to identify modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, including sexual exploitation, and flouting of labor laws; provide targeted education to those working in such high-risk industries on modern slavery, trafficking in persons, child labour and labor rights; and encourage the introduction of human rights and environmental due diligence legislation requiring traceability of supply chains in both the private and public sector in order to identify risk areas to increase due diligence efforts towards eradicating trafficking in persons in supply chains.

16. *Note with concern* that sexual and gender-based violence increased globally during the (COVID-19) pandemic, including modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour and encourage Member States to commit to intensifying efforts in public and private spheres.
17. *Commit* to increasing the scale of global resourcing, and accessible and flexible funding to formal and informal youth, youth-led organizations, networks and collectives working to counter modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour to match the scale of the challenge.
18. *Recognize, express deep concern, and commit* to taking concrete action to address the increasing links between armed groups, conflict zones and settings, armed conflict, including terrorist groups, and modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour, involving the coercion of victims, in particular girls, and youth, into forced marriages, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, forced labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation, and subjecting young men and boys to forced labor or act as combatants.
19. *Commit* to implementing mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence laws and import controls on goods produced using trafficking in persons, including forced labor, requiring traceability of supply chains in both the private and public sector and commit to embedding such measures into development frameworks and existing and future trade agreements, to counter modern slavery, trafficking in persons, and child labour in supply chains.
20. *Commit* to working towards forming a legally binding international treaty to cover global trade and supply chains, through, for example, accelerating progress towards a proposed United Nations Binding Treaty on Business, Human Rights and Environment; and in this regard, call for the World Trade Organization to formally include forced labor and child labour as formal topics on the agenda and

take a multilateral decision to counter subsequent forms of modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour.

**2) How can the needs of future generations best be linked to present priorities, like the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the principle of intergenerational equity?**

Sustainable Development Goal 8.7 calls for “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms.” Additionally, Sustainable Development Goal 5.2 calls to “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.” Finally, Sustainable Development Goal 16.2 calls to “end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.”

To achieve these SDG Target Indicators, it is crucial for Member States, in partnership and collaboration with all stakeholders, including, inter alia, the private sector, civil society, youth, media, academia to increase and intensify efforts to eliminate modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour in all their forms.

With the compounding crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and climate change (‘triple planetary crisis’), vulnerabilities to and the prevalence of modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour are expected to increase significantly. Children will be disproportionately impacted. In this regard, the principles of quality education (SDG 4) and decent work (SDG 8) are crucial. Ensuring all children and young people have access to quality education and decent work is incredibly important to fulfilling and realizing their full potential and human rights.

It must also be acknowledged that modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour are structural issues, deeply rooted in the socio-economic and political fabrics of our global societies and systems. This means that Member States must intensify efforts to implement, achieve and realize present priorities and international instruments, including addressing the root causes enabling these practices (including, inter alia, poverty, gender inequalities, corruption, conflict, climate change and unsustainable production and consumption).

2021 was identified as the year for the elimination of child labour. 2021 also saw the adoption of the Global Plan of Action to combat trafficking in persons, as well as many landmark reforms in the global fight to eradicate modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour. Decent work, social protections, intergenerational equity, internationally coordinated action, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - these are all principles and priorities that must be acted upon and fulfilled now, to truly center the needs of future generations.

Future generations must have all their human rights respected, and this means preventing and protecting future generations from modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour in all their forms.

**3) What are substantive issues relevant to future generations that should be reflected in the Declaration? Please list no more than three.**

- Modern slavery (contemporary forms of slavery);
- Trafficking in persons, especially of women and children;
- Child labour.

**4) Written input (max 6000 characters/two pages).**

Over 40 million people are in modern slavery globally, with 1 in 4 victims being children. The number of children engaged in child labour has risen to 160 million, and increase for the first time in two decades.

Compounded by the crises of conflict, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic, deepening existing inequalities and fuelling greater challenges, the rates of modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour are expected to rise.

In order to protect current and future generations from these exploitative practices, it is crucial for Member States to recognise, acknowledge and act upon the urgent need to increase and significantly advance efforts to counter modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour in all their forms.

**5) How would you summarize your input into a few words? (max 300 characters)**

Recognising the impact of the compounding crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, conflict and the ‘triple planetary crisis’, Member States must intensify and increase concrete efforts to prevent and protect future generations from modern slavery, trafficking in persons and child labour in all their forms.