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A voice at the United Nations



23<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council  
Geneva, 27 May – 14 June 2013  
Agenda Item 3: Clustered ID with SR on trafficking  
28 May 2013

Joint Oral Statement submitted by International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB) and co-signed by:

1. *Caritas Internationalis*;
2. *Company of the Daughters of Charity of Vincent de Paul*;
3. *Dominicans for Justice and Peace (Order of Preachers)*;
4. *Franciscans International (FI)*;
5. *Istituto Internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice (IIMA)*;
6. *OIDEL*;
7. *VIDES Internazionale*.

Thank you Mr President,

The International Catholic Child Bureau (ICCB) on behalf of 7 NGOs appreciates the report submitted by Joy Ngozi Ezeilo and her thematic analysis of the integration of a rights-based approach in measures to discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, which leads to human trafficking.

Indeed, demand remains a critical challenge to addressing one of the appalling root-causes of trafficking in persons, especially children. In the business sector, there is often no real commitment to comply with existing international labour law and business enterprises take advantage of the lack of internationally agreed principles to monitor compliance of working conditions to international human rights standards. **Therefore, ICCB and co-signing organisations recommend that the SR dedicate efforts, in cooperation with the ILO, UNODC and other relevant human rights institutions; to set up minimum labour principles concerning supply chains that business sector should respect.**

States are accountable to regulating business operations to avoid that business sector attracts and uses trafficked victims for its prosperity. In any case, measures towards demand discouragement have to **comply with international human rights obligations** as indicated in the SR's report.

Furthermore, the right-based approach to human trafficking, especially in children, implies that Governments tackle the issue from a holistic approach, ensure effective protection to victims, prosecute and punish traffickers, and improve or adapt their legislation, including preventive measures for sensitisation, awareness raising, and criminalisation of the use of services of trafficked and/or forced labour victims, especially when they are under 18. In addition, decisions related to children victims of trafficking require their **participation at all levels**.

Mr. President,

As to the issue of trafficked children begging or subjected to forced labour or slavery-like practices, among measures suggested by the SR, making profit from child begging should be considered a criminal offence. Hence, the **SR should reinforce her dialogue with countries visited to *de lege feranda* as a follow-up to her analysis report and in situ visits.**

Finally, ICCB and co-signing organisations would like to suggest that the **SR focuses her forthcoming report on the implementation and assessment of UPR recommendations related to human trafficking, especially in women and children.**

Thank you Mr. President.