Statement Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN in Geneva

**General discussion on the elaboration of a general recommendation on trafficking of women and girls in the context of migration under CEDAW**

Madame chair, distinguished Committee Member,

* Women and girls are undoubtedly the most vulnerable to trafficking in human beings in migration flows. There are numerous studies that show that women and girls are often forced to engage in prostitution. Numerous studies also conclude that it is always those in the most vulnerable situations who end up in prostitution. We must therefore do our utmost to protect women and girls from this hideous crime and one important step in doing so is by sending a strong signal that prostitution is a form of violence against women and girls, and exploitation of someone’s vulnerability.

* Sweden reaffirms its commitment to the CEDAW Convention and wishes to strongly reiterate what already is stated in its’ article 6: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.” One provenly effective way of doing so is through legislation that focuses on diminishing the demand for women and girls in prostitution, as concluded in the 2014 European Parliament resolution on human sexual exploitation. Canada, Island, Norway, Northern Ireland, Ireland, France and Sweden have already done so with good results.
* The prohibition of the purchase of sexual services is a very important step to protect women and girls from being exploited in prostitution by addressing one of the contributing factor of trafficking in women and girls.

I thank you, Madame Chair.