**THE PAN AFRICAN INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT, PAID INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR WEST AFRICA (PAID-WA), BUEA**

**Draft Contributions on General Recommendation on trafficking in Women and Girls in the context of global migration.**

1.) From Points 1-24 in the General Introduction, we agree with the point that trafficking is tied to gender based discrimination, so the root causes of gender based discrimination should be eradicated in all communities.

2.) **Point 7-8**

Economic livelihood has been the key contributory factor as described in points 21 and 22 but there is a need to thoroughly tie the issues to the problem of women and girls inadequate education or gender inequalities in education.

3.) Comment in point 23 on practical norms and values is ok because some of the laws or contributions especially those linked to families, are still patriarchal, so national laws should be reviewed.

4.) Point 24 on women/girls in rural arrears as stateless persons is correct, because it is truly sad that women/girls in most rural communities in the world have no inheritance in their maternal nor paternal families and villages, since they are often considered as another man’s property.

5.) Point 25 is ok because a gender disaggregated data is needed for this kind of report and publication.

6.) Points 58-60 on employment and labour framework is very ok. We think it’s good and this can be firmly linked to the issuing of employment and possession of contracts that are well linked to the national and international institutions and authorities for female emmigrants/immigrants. This will help reduce the rate of trafficking of women/girls.

7.) Point 61 on Reviewing Visa Regimes is important because some of the issues of trafficking have revealed gender discrimination especially when married women have been made to present their marriage certificates before travelling, a situation not common to men. Also, recruitment agencies have been a party to issuing false visas.

8.) Point 8 on identification, protection and assistance of female victims is very correct and important but we plead to add that there should be gender experts or officials and NGOs and CSOs in gender advocacy linked to embassies or consular services to record, link, and communicate with future vulnerable victims.

9.) Points 77-87 on victims access to justice is ok because most of the time female victims get implicated with moves for justice because the other aspects of their vulnerability as women seems to follow them where ever they go.

10.) Points 95-103 on remedies for victims is very ok.

11.) Trafficking in persons should be considered a crime punishable by the Law at both international and national Levels.

* No traditional Laws should be accepted which accept trafficking in persons (27ː a-d).

12.) The girl-child should be allowed to study to high levels before getting married.

* Where applicable they should be given the scholarship to study as the boy-child.

13.) Trafficking in persons including hiring the girl child/boy as house-helps, on little or no pay, with the flimsy excuses of either compensating them in any form later, through their parents/wards, should be discouraged and considered a criminal offense by all internationally/nationally (a-b).

* No persons should be trafficked in order to pay debts, into forced marriages, salary or sexual exploitation.

14.) Judicial proceedings dealing with trafficking in persons should be rapidly executed.

* Specified tribunals could be set to handle cases on trafficking in persons and the judges specially trained to handle the cases.

15.) Government authorities and civil society organs to work very closely on trafficking of persons, should be identified and certified.

* Finances be provided by donors for reputable organs to research, advocate and report on trafficking of persons.

16.) Women’s visas, residence permits, work permit, and other documentation should not be tied to marriage leaving out the male spouses. Spouses should be allowed to sort out together where the marriage has been legalized. Also, there should be a review to make marriages less patriarchal.