**The Comments of the State of Palestine on the “Draft CEDAW General recommendation on Trafficking in Women and Girls in the Context of Global Migration”:**

* The State of Palestine appreciates the efforts of the CEDAW Committee to draft a general recommendation on trafficking in women and girls in the context of global migration, given the importance of this topic and its devastating effects on women and girls.
* The State of Palestine acknowledges the recognition by the CEDAW Committee of foreign occupation as one of the main causes of gender-based violence against women and girls (as mentioned in paragraph 33 of the draft general recommendation). However, throughout the Draft General Recommendation, foreign occupation was not considered as one of the root causes of trafficking in women and girls, and ending such occupation was not mentioned as one of the State Parties’ obligations to address the root causes of trafficking and discourage the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, that leads to human trafficking.
* The Draft General Recommendation does not address forced labour in the illegal settlements and illegal entities of the occupying power. The population of the occupied territory might be obliged or forced to work in these entities to counter the devastating economic effects of the occupation, and are usually subjected to all forms of discrimination, humiliation, ill-treatment at the hands of their employers and exploitation, which can lead to trafficking in persons, especially women and girls.
* The children of women victims of trafficking were not mentioned in the Drat General Recommendation as well. The General Recommendation should highlight the importance of ensuring protection for these children, guaranteeing their rights and providing them with all needed services.

Therefore, the State of Palestine appreciates the inclusion of the above-mentioned comments in the Draft General Recommendation, as well as including the following comments:

* The obligations and responsibilities of the occupying power should be addressed in the “Scope of application of the Convention” mentioned in page 5, paragraphs (16-17).
* Foreign occupation should be considered as one of the root causes of trafficking, and the obligation of the occupying power to end such occupation must be included in paragraphs (19-29) on addressing the root causes of trafficking and discouraging the demand that fosters their exploitation through trafficking.
* The elimination of all discriminatory legislations and provisions against the population of the occupied territory must be added to the measures that should be taken to address the root causes of trafficking mentioned in paragraph 26, and to paragraph 29 concerning the adoption of a comprehensive gender-sensitive anti-trafficking legislation.
* The adoption and implementation of cybercrimes laws might contribute to combating trafficking in persons. This might be added to paragraph 29 concerning the adoption of anti-trafficking legislations.
* “Occupation” should be added to the most important drivers of global displacement mentioned in paragraph 33. The devastating impact of occupation and the responsibilities of the occupying power should be addressed in section (f) “forcibly transferred women and girls facing a higher risk of being trafficked”.
* Stateless and refugee women and girls should be added to the list of particular vulnerabilities mentioned in paragraph 54.
* The situation of stateless and refugee women and girls and the importance of ensuring their rights should be addressed in section (g) “women and girls migrants’ increased risk of being trafficked”.
* Ensuring access to justice for stateless and refugee women and girls victims of trafficking must be mentioned in paragraph 84.
* Paragraph 96 must indicate the importance of adopting a clear mechanism ensuring that compensations are delivered to victims of trafficking and are not requisited by their exploiters.