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**Human Rights Council – 10th session
12 March 2009**

Agenda Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children

Mr. President,

On behalf of Franciscans International and the Global Alliance Against Traffic in Women (GAATW), we would like to thank Ms. Joy Ngozi Ezeilo, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, for her excellent first report with a clear link to existing research and reports of other international organisations. We welcome her participatory approach and her willingness to work with civil society.

1. The report highlights the need to address linkages between trafficking, labour and migration **and consequently the trafficking of men and boys, and trafficking in persons for forms of exploitation other than sexual**. This is reflected in national legislation and responses to the Rapporteur's questionnaire which indicated that only a few countries criminalize trafficking for forced labour or trafficking in men. **What are your plans to address the lack of attention to this issue?**
2. We share the Rapporteur's concern that the **root causes** of human trafficking are insufficiently addressed. A better understanding of the link between social and economic disparities between states and migration and human trafficking and the demand for cheap labour is crucial. It is important to recognize that highly restrictive border controls often lead to the strengthening of trafficking networks and the exploitation of the most vulnerable. We welcome the Rapporteur's willingness to address the

root causes of trafficking and would like to encourage her to take the aforementioned elements into account.

3. We welcome the Rapporteur's desire to look at the accordance of anti-trafficking legislation with human rights standards. Since the entry into force of the Human Trafficking Protocol there has been a global proliferation of anti-trafficking legislation. It is crucial that legislation not only criminalizes traffickers and trafficking related practices, but that there is due regard for the human rights of trafficked persons such as non-conditional assistance, access to justice and compensation without discrimination on any grounds. Has the Rapporteur been party to discussions on a review mechanism to the UNTOC and its protocols and what specific multi-lateral efforts will she encourage to ensure that national legislation is monitored both for its positive and negative impact on trafficked persons and affected groups?
4. The report highlights the **scarcity of quality data** in the field of human trafficking which can lead to misguided judgements of the numbers of trafficked persons. We believe that the gathering of statistics at the international level is important and should be done in collaboration with all relevant international organizations. However, success in this endeavor relies particularly upon the capacity of States to collect data at a national level ensuring that data protection and consultation with service providing institutions and NGOs is central to such data collection. **What measures would the Rapporteur recommend in order to improve national data collection and how does she envisage states using improved data in anti-trafficking efforts? How could such data inform a global action plan for combating human trafficking?** The Rapporteur mentions the importance of victim protection measures in her report, what plans does she have to ensure protections for trafficked persons when engaging in judicial procedures? Does she agree that independent and confidential help-lines are one crucial protection mechanism?

We thank you Mr. President.