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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[15 May 2011]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

Women's trafficking and violence against women

As a nongovernmental organization, we believe that despite all the improvements made with regards to the vulnerable groups of societies, such as women, nevertheless several areas in this regard require further action and efforts. Right now in most parts of the world, even Europe, further measures are needed for the protection of women's rights.

We understand and commend the efforts that have been made on important issues such as violence against women; efforts that include legislation, establishment of shelter and counselling centres for women rape victims, research initiatives and European countries' efforts for raising public awareness of this issue. But we also believe that the present and high statistics of the extent of violence against women and girls, low criminal prosecution figures, the high figures of refraining from reporting crimes and also not enough funds for organizations that provide support services to the victims are all very alarming.

Also the spreading of violence against women in vulnerable and marginalised groups that include women tourist, migrants, refugees and the disabled in Europe are further cases which we call for enough studies to be conducted by the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women.

Sadly as mentioned in the reports of the Human Rights Council reporting mechanisms, recommendation and conclusions of European countries' UPR and also ECOSOC committee reports, alongside the problem of violence, there is the trafficking in women and girls which is one of human rights violation of this gender. The lack of information and the extent of this problem, the shortfalls of laws in this regard, and the lack of a comprehensive strategy to fight trafficking results in not only any action not be taken in the fight with this problem, but also not enough multilateral understanding will be possible. As an organized crime trafficking in humans is the third biggest global business after drugs and weapons trafficking. It is fast growing in different countries. And according to United Nations published figures the trafficking trade brings 7 to 10 billion dollars profit, and unfortunately most of the destination countries are American and European countries.

Expressing concern towards these high figures and:

1. With understanding that human trafficking is a grave human rights violation and a serious challenge in the face of humanitarian activities;
2. With a stress on the fact that all countries are accountable for actions taken in the fight against human trafficking;
3. With a stress on the role and effects of globalisation in the increase in the human trafficking problem, women and children in particular;
4. Pointing to the challenges that exist in the lack of unified and fair laws in confrontation with the subject across the world;
5. Considering that most prostitution and force labour victims fall prey to human traffickers;
6. Considering that most trafficking victims are women and children who are trafficked from developing to developed countries;
7. With a stress on the conditions of vulnerable groups such as women who are continuously threatened by poverty and social outcasts, rural, old, migrant, heads of household, and disabled women attention to the obstacles in the way of individuals involved in education, employment, health care and other social services;

8. Pointing to prevention policies and programmes, rehabilitation and reintegration of the victims back to society and their families and their full access to their rights must increase;

We at the Organization for Defending Victims of Violence, call upon the cooperation of all countries for the eradication of human trafficking in source, transit and destination countries, and the monitoring and facilitating role of the Human Rights Council and other mechanisms for the protection of women's rights, such as the newly established UN Women.
