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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 Mother of Hope Cameroon Common Initiative Group, 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.

[22 August 2021]

* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.



Trafficking

Human trafficking is recognized as one of the gravest violations of human rights. However, Indian women and children are routinely trafficked within the country as well as to neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh for commercial sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is an organized crime in India. India has very high statistical evidence of the human trafficking of children. According to their own Bureau, at least one child is said to suddenly disappear every eight minutes. In India, the main causes in the trafficking of women and children involve economic, socio-cultural, erosion of values, weak state apparatus of applying laws, poverty and lack of education. Poor women and children in India fall into the hands of traffickers due to a little greed. In many cases, women are trafficked by kidnapping, acting out of love and even through false marriages. The poor, uneducated and helpless women of the villages migrate to the cities in hopes for employment opportunities, which has them targeted by traffickers. Unmarried, divorced and widowed women can also be victims of trafficking. In the temptation of a happy and prosperous life, these poor and uneducated women fall into the trap of traffickers. In recent times in India, a video has gone viral which shows the extent to which trafficked women are subjected to cruelty and torture. These trafficking groups target areas of the country where poverty rates are high, education rates are low, communication systems are undeveloped, and people are unaware and weak.

A few days ago, a jobless father in India's state sold his four-month-old infant without his wife's knowledge. The mother had tried to intervene and save the baby with help from some neighbours but was unfortunately unsuccessful in doing so. The man admitted that he had been driven to desperation due to his unemployment, and his inability to sustain his family. Another incident happened on the 4th of June 2021, when a young girl called P. was rescued from her employer's house in Patna. P. had been working as a domestic helper for about a year, after being taken by child traffickers in June 2020. After a long year of child labour, she was rescued by an NGO working for the empowerment of women, youth and children. P. told her rescuers that she was maltreated by her employers, who used to beat her thrice a day as a matter of routine on one pretext or the other. When rescued, bruises covered her body.

The number of trafficked women and children in India is increasing each day, and if it is not brought under control, many more will be subjected into becoming victims as well. We urge this council to tell the Indian government to enforce better laws to help protect women and children, as well as act against human trafficking happening in India.
