**POSITION PAPER**

DELEGATE OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**“Behind every statistic is a women with a story, stolen by exploitation and silenced by forced labour**”.

Trafficking persists as a grave human rights violation, with a disproportionate impact on women and girls. According to 2022 estimates by (ILO) there are 27.6 million people in forced labour amongst which **55%** of victims are womens roughly **1 in every 250 wome**n is in forced labour anytime. Women and girls continue to encounter significant barriers in gaining access to justice for trafficking crimes. Responses to trafficking continue to place greater emphasis on the prosecution and conviction of traffickers, **rather than protection and support for victim-survivor.**

For PAPUA NEW GUINEA, this fight is not theoretical – it is an urgent issue closely tied to gender, poverty and inequality. As Papua new guinea is a country with diverse tribal cultures and remote communities we do face unique challenges, many victims come from rural areas lacking access to education and jobs,we fully support international effort to combat trafficking and forced labour, several policies criminal code( amendment) act of 2013 making all forms of trafficking illegal, anti human trafficking committee was made for managing law enforcement, justice and immigration, national action plan **(NAP) targets prevention**, victim protection, legal enforcement etc and training programs in collaboration with **IOM and UNODC**. Also according to the case study of **Binta abubakar,** a dual citizen of **Austrian-Nigerian who allegedly lured 15 PNG nationals to Australia(2021-2023)** with promises of fully-funded scholarships. Instead, she forced them into debt bondage and unpaid agriculture under threat of deportation and family intimidation. The victims endured oppressive conditions. She was arrested at Brisbane airport in June 2025, penalties for **20 year of trafficking, 7 year for deceptive recruiting and 4 years for debt bondage were put**. This shows strong cross border action and improved cooperation for exploitation of PNG nationals.Also we actively participate in **BALI process** on people smuggling and trafficking in persons, and support **sustainable goal 8.7** aiming to end modern slavery, human trafficking and child labour**. UN tech alliance** for anti trafficking , **community based alert system** are areas which we suggest PAPUA NEW GUINEA acknowledges that human trafficking is not merely a legal issue – it is a humanitarian crisis linked to gender injustices , poverty, and global inequality . laws matter .

Polices matter . But most importantly, people matter .if we want a future where freedom is real for all , we must act decisively, think creatively, and work together globally.