Committee: United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW)

Agenda: Combatting Global Human Trafficking of Women: Addressing Exploitation and Forced Labor

Country: Kenya

The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW) is a principal global policy-making body dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls worldwide. It established in 1946 it plays crucial role in our society. It brings together everyone to shape the world .

Topic-1

 addressing human trafficking crime

Human trafficking of women, especially for exploitation and forced labor, is one of the most serious global human rights violations of the 21st century. It involves the illegal trade and movement of women across borders or within countries for the purpose of forced labor, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, and modern-day slavery. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable due to socio-economic inequality, lack of education, conflict, and gender-based violence. In many parts of the world, women are promised jobs or better lives, only to end up trapped in exploitative conditions with no means of escape. Trafficking not only strips them of their freedom but also their dignity, and often results in lifelong trauma. This crime thrives in silence and secrecy, and the fight against it requires strong international cooperation, survivor protection, and gender-sensitive legal frameworks. As a member of the global community, Kenya understands that ending trafficking is not only a legal obligation but a moral responsibility to protect women's rights.

Topic-2 challenges

Kenya, as both a source, transit, and destination country, has been significantly affected by the trafficking of women and girls.

Many women from rural and underprivileged areas are trafficked internally to urban centers or abroad, especially to the Middle East, under the false promises of employment, only to be exploited as domestic workers or forced into servitude. Women are often unaware of their rights, and weak regulation of recruitment agencies increases their vulnerability. Kenya's strategic geographic location and porous borders also make it a target route for regional trafficking, affecting not only its own citizens but also migrants and refugees from neighboring countries such as Ethiopia, Somalia, and South Sudan. The country faces major challenges such as lack of awareness, poverty, corruption, under-resourced law enforcement, and stigma against victims, which prevent effective identification, reporting, and prosecution of trafficking cases. Many survivors do not receive proper rehabilitation or justice. Despite these challenges, Kenya remains determined to overcome these problems through stronger national and international  efforts.

Topic-3 Kenya achievement

In response, Kenya has taken concrete steps to combat trafficking. It enacted the Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010, which criminalizes all forms of trafficking and provides penalties for offenders. The government also established a National Assistance Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking, and has developed a National Referral Mechanism to coordinate services such as rescue, shelter, counseling, and reintegration for survivors. Kenya has also signed and ratified international agreements like the Palermo Protocol, aligning its national laws with global standards. Kenya is currently working to strengthen border control, regulate employment and recruitment agencies more strictly, and conduct awareness campaigns, especially in rural and high-risk communities. However, to truly combat trafficking, Kenya recommends global cooperation in intelligence sharing, capacity building for law enforcement, funding for shelters and rehabilitation programs, and digital tools for early warning and victim identification. Most importantly, Kenya urges the UNCSW and all member states to adopt a victim-centered, gender-sensitive, and human rights-based approach, ensuring that survivors are not treated as criminals but as individuals in need of support and dignity.

Sources Used in the Kenya Position Paper:

1. Counter-Trafficking in Persons Act, 2010 (Kenya)

2. National Referral Mechanism Guidelines – Kenya

3. Kenya’s National Plan of Action Against Trafficking in Persons (2020–2024)

4. U.S. Department of State – Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report 2024: Kenya

5. UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Palermo Protocol)