

THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT AGAINST ALL FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM

IMADR Oral Statement: 26th session of the Human Rights Council

Item 3: Report of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially in women and children

12 June 2014

Thank you Mr. President,

This is a joint statement by IMADR and Women's Consortium of Nigeria (WOCON). We would like to express our sincere appreciation to Madame Ezeilo for her critical work in the past 6 years. We endorse her calls on States to establish effective mechanisms to combat trafficking in persons, such as appointing independent national rapporteurs, strengthening regional mechanisms, developing cooperation between States and ensuring accountability of non-State actors.

In Nigeria, there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of trafficked persons, especially children trafficked internally and women and girls trafficked to Europe and North Africa for domestic slavery and prostitution. The underlying factors responsible for the vulnerability of trafficked persons are poverty and discriminatory cultural practices. The Government of Nigeria is presently faced with the repatriation of hundreds of trafficked person which is creating an enormous challenge for their reintegration and protection against reprisals as well as increasing incidents of re-trafficking. However, the traffickers are getting away with impunity. The situation is further aggravated by forced child marriage which is prevalent especially in the North. The Government of Nigeria should put in place a well-structured reintegration programme with effective monitoring mechanisms for the protection of trafficked persons while prosecuting those responsible for the abuses. The Child Rights Act and Laws should be implemented to curb child trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

We regret that the Government of Japan has not implemented most of the recommendations made by Madame Ezeilo following her country visit in 2009. In particular, the recommendations concerning the Technical Interns Programme, which has been a source for grave labour exploitations and trafficking, have not been implemented such as establishing an independent body to supervise companies and adopting a national law to regulate the programme to avoid human rights violations. We are deeply concerned by the Government's decision to expand the Technical Interns Programme to supply labour force to the construction industry towards the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games. We urge the Government to implement the recommendations from the Madam Rapporteur, and not to abuse the Technical Interns Programme as a resource for cheap labour.

Finally, we wish to request the next mandate holder to continue to pay attention to the situations in Nigeria and Japan.

Thank you Mr. President.