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Intervention

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DMUN Foundation**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Excellencies, colleagues, and distinguished delegates.

My name is Alexa Dominique Pascual. I am from the United States, and I represent the DMUN Foundation as the organization's UN representative. DMUN is a youth-led civil society organization dedicated to advancing research-driven policy and fostering global engagement on pressing international challenges. We advocate for the inclusion of youth voices in peacebuilding, governance, and human rights within the United Nations and the Bretton Woods system.

I would like to express my gratitude to the co-facilitators for recognizing the critical role of civil society, and particularly youth, in shaping the review of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

Human trafficking is a grave violation of human rights, with youth being disproportionately affected. According to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, nearly 30% of detected trafficking victims are children, with girls comprising the majority. Many more remain unreported, their stories lost in silence.

Despite this, youth are often excluded from the decision-making processes where solutions are crafted. We are not only witnesses to these injustices but also powerful agents of change. We possess the ideas, networks, and technological fluency to lead meaningful prevention efforts.

In this context, I respectfully offer the following recommendations:



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Institutionalize youth participation in the implementation, monitoring, and review of the Global Plan of Action.

This requires more than one-time consultations. It demands the creation of youth advisory councils within UN agencies, formal seats for youth-led organizations in anti-trafficking task forces, and sustained support for our capacity to contribute.

Strengthen protections against online exploitation, particularly targeting youth.

The digital space is increasingly exploited for trafficking, using platforms like social media and gaming. We need multistakeholder frameworks to develop ethical, rights-based digital safety protocols that involve youth, tech companies, law enforcement, and civil society.

Prioritize prevention through youth-centered economic empowerment.

Addressing the root causes of youth vulnerability—poverty, lack of education, displacement, and gender-based violence—is critical. Expanding access to education, vocational training, and employment, particularly for girls and young migrants, can help deter trafficking.

Support survivor-informed, youth-led research and program design.

Many youth-led organizations are already engaging with survivors and piloting community-based solutions. We urge Member States and UN entities to fund youth-led, survivor-centered initiatives, enabling us to scale and sustain these efforts.

Ensure youth representation in national action plans and regional frameworks.

As countries update their anti-trafficking strategies, the perspectives of young people must be integrated through consultations and mechanisms for ongoing dialogue and feedback.

Excellencies, trafficking is a generational challenge. The failure to protect young people today will have lasting repercussions. Investing in youth—our safety, education, and leadership—is the most strategic form of prevention.

At the DMUN Foundation, we are ready to collaborate with governments, multilateral institutions, and civil society to co-develop evidence-based, youth-driven solutions. Let us make the next iteration of the Global Plan of Action inclusive, responsive, and future-oriented.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to speak.