**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**QUESTION OF:** Combatting the growth of modern slavery

**SUBMITTED BY:** the Netherlands

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Reaffirming* that according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 4 “No one shall he held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms,”

*Recalling* the Geneva Anti-Slavery Convention signed in 1926, which targets the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices similar to Slavery, which is still operative today,

*Further reaffirming* all previous resolutions on the problem of modern slavery, in particular Human Rights Council resolution 11/3, in which the Council aimed for eradication of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

*Concerned* that the estimate minimum number of people in slavery was at over 12 million in 2007 and has increased to over 40 million in 2016 according to the Labor Organization ILO of the United Nations and the Walk Free Foundation,

*Pointing out* that modern slavery includes forced labour, bonded labour, forced or early marriage, human trafficking, child slavery and descent-based slavery,

*Recognizing* the purpose of the transnational border patrol FRONTEX, which aims to limit trafficking and slavery in the EU/Schengen zone,

*Noting further* the purpose and input by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to eradicate modern slavery, also providing funds to help victims of modern slavery,

*Welcoming* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of modern slavery, as modern slavery is a violation of human rights, which continues to be a serious challenge for humanity and requires an international response for it to be eradicated,

1. Affirms that it is essential to place the protection of human rights at the centre of measures taken to prevent and end modern slavery;
2. Suggests all member states who have not yet agreed and signed the Geneva Anti-Slavery Convention of 1926 to do so;
3. Encourages all member states to help increase awareness of modern slavery by providing education to members of the public on what modern slavery is, how to report and identify victims of modern slavery in collaboration with The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) such as but not limited to:
   1. social media campaigns, newspaper advertisements, leaflets, posters,
   2. public and private education through, but not limited to:
      1. lessons at primary and secondary schools,
      2. promotions of lectures at universities and other public forums;
4. Further suggests all member states to implement a reporting mechanism, through which modern slavery crimes can be reported to authority or institutions through methods including but not limited to:
   1. Text messaging,
   2. Phoning through a hotline,
   3. Or online forms;
5. Recommends nations to ask national Corporate businesses to work together and support NGOs such as Fairtrade in order to track down slavery, as they hold information about the worker conditions of their businesses by providing including but not limited to guidance and training for businesses on how to track down potential slavery in their businesses;
6. Further recommends member nations, in collaboration with both governmental and non-governmental organisations, to enforce border security in order to aim to limit human trafficking and all other forms of modern slavery, by working in collaboration with transnational border patrol FRONTEX who are specialised in the field;
7. Encourages all member nations to provide support of victims of modern slavery, to prevent the victims to become enslaved again, in collaborations of both non-governmental and governmental institutions including but not limited to:
   1. providing therapist,
   2. finding a safe workplace,
   3. providing housing,
   4. providing education;
8. Calls for an annual conference hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, where dialogue between all member nations takes place to allow for discussions on modern slavery and to allow nations to remain actively seized on this matter including but not limited to:
   1. each nations development on eradicating all forms of modern slavery,
   2. finding additional long-term as well as short-term solutions on eradicating all forms of modern slavery, furthermore looking for alternative ways of tackling the issue of overall modern slavery.