



43rd Regular Session of the Human Rights Council, 24 February – 20 March 2020

Item 3: Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material

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APG23 thanks the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material for her comprehensive report.¹

Sadly, much work remains to be done on the sale and sexual exploitation of children, entailing from addressing the root causes to the tailoring of effective response mechanisms. As the SR highlights: “.... the scale of the problem continues to expand at an alarming rate. Several manifestations of the sale and sexual exploitation of children are worsening further and their underpinning causes becoming increasingly complex to tackle. “

We have been failing our children, and if societies don't really commit to their protection, children will be failed again. It's time for all States and the society at large to commit to tackling the root causes of this horrible crime. The pledge made with the Agenda 2030 to make the world a better place for children seems to be gone unfulfilled. How many children's lives will have to be devastated before the promise to protect the children will be a reality in all countries?

Rightly, the Special Rapporteur stated in her report to the 71st General Assembly² in 2016 that, in order to eradicate the sexual exploitation of children, it is critical for States and all stakeholders to focus on the demand factor and establish comprehensive strategies to reduce it effectively. Anti-trafficking laws should consider, first of all, measures to discourage, reduce and eliminate the demand in order to be adequate and effective, following the example of some European countries that have implemented the so called “Nordic Model.

There is need to adopt a political and cultural approach rejecting the idea that children, mostly girls, are commodities that can be bought, sold and sexually exploited. The same approach should be applied towards the practice of commercial maternal surrogacy that amount to sale of children.

Finally, we would like to recommend to the Special Rapporteur to focus on the transnational aspects of these types of crimes, the standardization of the different ways of working of national police forces and the coordination among all the national bodies that deal with identification, support and integration of the victims of sexual exploitation.

Thank you!

¹ A/HRC/43/40

² A/HRC/31/58

