Committee: Arab League
Topic: Combatting Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery in the Arab world
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I. Introduction:

Human trafficking and modern slavery are major human rights challenges that continue to plague the Arab World today. They involve exploitation of individuals through force, deception, or coercion for purposes such as labor, sexual exploitation, begging, or forced marriage. Millions of people, notably migrant workers or refugees, women, and children are at risk of this exploitation due to a variety of factors, including: economic inequality, armed conflict, and forced displacement. Despite there being efforts by Arab governments and international organizations to combat this issue, gaps in legislation, enforcement, and regional cooperation prevent these efforts from reaching their full potential. Addressing a disastrous issue such as this requires a coordinated response focused on prevention, protection, and prosecution (The 3 p's).

II. Historical Background:

For centuries, human trafficking and modern slavery have both existed all throughout the Arab World. Over time, economic growth and the increased demand for foreign workers - particularly in Gulf countries - contributed to labor exploitation and concerns regarding the Kafala (Sponsorship) system.

In addition, armed conflict, political instability, and economic crises across the Arab World have increased the exposure of minority groups, such as migrants, women, and children to human trafficking. To combat this, Arab countries have introduced anti-trafficking laws such as the 2012 Arab strategy to combat human trafficking. However, enforcement and regional cooperation hinder the process of any effort to reach its maximum potential.

III. Legal Framework

There have been multiple international and regional legal frameworks that were established to combat human trafficking and modern slavery. Such as:

UN Palermo Protocol (2000):

- An international measure that was established to prevent human trafficking, prosecute offenders, and protect victims.

Arab Strategy to Combat Human Trafficking:

- Implemented to encourage Arab countries to strengthen legislation and cooperation in combating human trafficking.

ILO Forced Labour Convention (1930):

- Requires member states to reduce forced labour and prevent exploitation of workers.

IV. Main sides of the debate:

A. Stronger legal enforcement:
   1. Governments should enforce anti-trafficking laws, prosecute offenders and ensure they are held accountable.

B. Rights of Migrant Workers:
   1. Governments should improve protection of labourers and prevent their exploitation.

C. Victim Protection:
   1. Governments should provide victims with proper shelter, healthcare, rehabilitation, and legal support.

D. Regional Cooperation:
   1. Arab governments should cooperate to prevent trafficking, share information, and prosecute offenders.

V. Key issues:

A. Forced labour:
   1. Any work or labour being forcefully imposed on individuals against their will.

B. Exploitation of migrants:
   1. Abuse of foreign workers through long hours, low wages, or restricted freedom.

C. Child trafficking:
   1. Exploitation of children for labour, forced begging, etc.

D. Sexual exploitation:
   1. Trafficking individuals for sexual exploitation.

E. Weak enforcement:
   1. Lack of effective protection, prevention, and prosecution (The three p's).

F. Conflict and displacement:
   1. Vulnerability to trafficking is exponentially increased due to displacement.

VI. Key terms:

A. Human trafficking:

1. Recruiting individuals through force, deception, or coercion in order to exploitation

B. Modern slavery:
    1. Individuals facing exploitation and are unable to freely escape.
C. Forced Labour:
    1. Performance of work against one's will under coercion
D. Kafala system:
    1. Sponsorship system that links migrant workers' homes to their employers
E. Victim protection:
    1. Actions that are taken to aid and ensure the safety and recovery of victims.
F. Human smuggling:
    1. Illegally harbouring humans across international borders for financial gain.

VII. Well known examples and cases:

A. Libya - migrant trafficking (Ongoing):
    1. Migrants have been constantly exploited and are facing human trafficking, forced labour, and exploitation
B. Egypt - Anti Human trafficking law (2010):
    1. Egypt's law No. 64 of 2010 sets clear definitions of human trafficking is the country's foundational legislation against human trafficking.

VIII. Questions to consider:

A. How can Arab countries strengthen their laws against human trafficking?
B. How can governments better protect migrant workers and refugees?
C. How can governments support victims of human trafficking?
D. How can Arab countries strengthen their cooperation to combat human trafficking and modern slavery?

IX. Sources to use:

ILO Forced labour, modern slavery and trafficking in persons
UNODC Human trafficking and migrant smuggling
UNHRC
UNESCWA Trafficking of women and children

Good luck delegates!