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**YVES CHARPENEL, PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO ADDRESS PROSTITUTION AND SEX TRAFFICKING**

Dear friends, first of all, I would like to thank Ms Anne Claire Legendre, Consul General of France in New York, for hosting us this evening in this symbolic place of relations between our two countries.

The Scelles Foundation and two of its American partners, CATW and SPACE International, have this great opportunity to conduct a joint conference on the best strategies to fight prostitution and sexual exploitation.

We all agree on the importance to address and fight sexual violence that intrinsic to this particular phenomenon.

It is not a coincidence that this evening takes place during the week dedicated to the UN's Commission on the Status of Women.

We all agree that current responses provided by States and civil societies worldwide have not been adequate enough to reduce the threat against the rights of those most vulnerable.

Today, we will share with you three of our collective observations, despite the diversity within our societies and legal systems:

The first observation: there is an emergence of a vast system of transnational organized crime that takes many forms but is driven by the same force: to make greater profits at the expense of the dignity and safety of those being exploited - predominantly women and children.

Good sentiments and intentions alone cannot end sexual exploitation. We must also mobilize our resources that are adapted to the fight against organized crime, specifically those related to prevention, law enforcement and international cooperation.

The second observation: today, sexual exploitation is essentially a marketplace where the human body is regarded as a commodity and this market is subject to the normal laws of supply and demand.

Therefore, we must take action against those who sell and those who buy human beings in order to achieve positive lasting results.

The third observation: Based on our shared experience, we are certain that it will take a globally concerted effort to produce a meaningful and enduring outcome.

In order to achieve tangible and long-term results, it is essential that NGOs, who defend women subjected to prostitution, and institutions that are responsible for combatting this crime collaborate more openly and mobilize their efforts concertedly.

That said, we also need more in-depth research on this phenomenon so we can better understand its evolving dimensions and reality. This data can then be used in awareness campaigns to educate the general public and our local authorities. It is essential to raise awareness on the challenges that prostitution and sexual exploitation pose against our societies.

For over 20 years, the Scelles Foundation has conducted extensive global research and provided documentation on all aspects of sexual exploitation. Our findings have been consistent with those of our American partners.

Therefore, I call on all of those who do goodwill to allow us to initiate and execute these various actions, aligning the expertise acquired France and around the world.

We will achieve success in our fight against sexual exploitation when the best identified practices, which we want to develop here, are universally agreed upon and adopted.

Thank you!