**FWCC Oral Statement to be delivered at the 45th session of the Human Rights Council**

**Interactive Dialogue with the Working Group on Mercenaries**

We thank the Working Group on Mercenaries for their thorough and stark report on the Impact of the use of private military and security services in immigration and border management on the protection of the rights of all migrants.

The report details a pattern of widespread human rights violations resulting from securitisation and externalisation of border management and the notion that security for some can be bought at the expense of security, dignity and life for others. The report points to reduced protections for migrants including:

* criminalisation of irregular entry and stay
* increased use of detention
* restricted access to asylum
* rapid returns and removals
* and criminalisation humanitarian assistance.

The Working Group notes the that these measures coupled with the outsourcing of State functions to private actors creates a toxic blend, saying unambiguously:

This combination of policies has been disastrous for migrants, resulting in countless deaths along sea, lake, river, mountain and desert crossings and in the violation and abuse of migrants’ rights on a massive scale.[[1]](#footnote-1)

We note that in 2020 alone 1,772 people are recorded to have died in migration. Policies and practices that are known to causes or exacerbate the risk of torture and death persist around the world.

Our question for the Chair of the Working Group is how the Human Rights Council can strengthen its response to these violations and abuses? Recognising the Working Group’s emphasis on transparency, oversight and accountability, do you see a value in complementing the Council’s thematic work with monitoring or investigation of particular migration corridors?

\*\*\*ENDS\*\*\*

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1. Impact of the use of private military and security services in immigration and border management on the protection of the rights of all migrants, Report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of

violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, A/HRC/45/9 of 9 July 2020, para. 20 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)