

Mr. Wu Haitao (China) (*spoke in Chinese*):

China was deeply shocked by the fatal shooting of the Russian Ambassador to Turkey and by the terrorist incidents that have occurred in other countries, including Germany and Yemen. We offer our deepest condolences to the victims and strongly condemn those acts of terrorism. China takes a firm stand against all forms of terrorism and supports the international community's counter- terrorism efforts and actions.

China commends Spain's initiative to convene today's open debate. We welcome Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, President of the Government of Spain, who is presiding over today's meeting. I thank Secretary- General Ban Ki-moon, Executive Director Fedotov, Special Representative of the Secretary-General

Bangura, and the representatives of civil society for their briefings.

Resolution 2331 (2016), unanimously adopted today by the Security Council, will help the international community combat trafficking in persons in conflict areas and protect the rights and interests of women and children in a joint endeavour. Today, we are witnessing the swift emergence of problems in regional hotspots, the start of new conflicts and the continuance of protracted ones, which all pose a serious threat to the survival and dignity of the people in conflict situations, in particular vulnerable groups such as women and children, making them easier prey to violence and crime. It is incumbent upon the international community to build synergies to enhance the protection of the rights of women and children in areas of armed conflict and strive to end the trafficking of persons in such areas.

First, we must eradicate the root causes of conflict. While fighting transnational organized crime with great intensity and providing safety assurances for women and children in conflict situations, the international community should pay close attention to addressing the root causes of conflict. It should intensify the political approach used based on the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations in order to resolve differences through dialogue and consultation. We should focus on helping conflict torn countries boost their economic and social development, embark on sustainable development and steer clear of conflict and war.

Secondly, we must step up the fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime. Trafficking in persons in areas of armed conflict has become the source of funding for terrorist organizations and transnational organized crime groups. The international community should take coordinated, harmonized action, apply uniform standards and employ political, economic and cultural means in an integrated manner in order to obstruct the channels of financing for terrorist organizations and firmly suppress all forms of terrorism and transnational, organized crime.

Thirdly, we should help conflict-torn countries to strengthen their capacity-building. They bear the primary responsibility for protecting the safety of their women and children and combating human trafficking. On the other hand, they are likely to be dealing with practical difficulties such as a lack of resources and capacity. While respecting national sovereignty, the international community should provide these countries, at their request, with constructive support, focusing on assisting their capacity-building in the areas of the fight against terrorism and border control.

Fourthly, we should deepen international cooperation. The issue of human trafficking in conflict situations involves countries of origin, transit and destination. Those concerned should improve their cooperation in areas such as border enforcement, financial regulation and judicial assistance. The United Nations and its subsidiary bodies, including the Security Council, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, should all leverage their particular advantages, strengthen their coordination and work together to address the issue.

China will continue to strengthen its cooperation with Governments and the relevant international organizations in order to effectively protect the rights and interests of women and children, to combat human trafficking in conflict situations and to jointly safeguard international and regional peace, security, stability and development.