

Mr. Jinga (Romania):

I would like to begin by expressing our sincere condolences on the assassination of Mr. Andrey Karlov, Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Ankara, and to the loved ones of the victims of the terrorist attack in Berlin.

I would like to congratulate Spain on its remarkable and accomplished two-year term on the Security Council, and to thank the Spanish delegation for organizing today's open debate on trafficking in persons in conflict situations. I commend their efforts with regard to today's adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2331 (2016), of which Romania was a sponsor.

Romania aligns itself with the statement delivered earlier on behalf of the European Union, to which I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Conflicts are becoming more closely linked to terrorist activities, while human trafficking plays an increasing role in the operations of terrorist organizations, generating revenue and functioning as an instrument for eliminating those who oppose them. It is well known that internally displaced and refugee women and girls in areas controlled by Da'esh have been sold or forcibly married to fighters in armed groups. The horrendous crimes committed against Yazidi women and girls in particular have generated deep sympathy worldwide. We must help the survivors to cope with the long-lasting physical and psychological trauma of the abuse they have endured. We welcome the appointment of Nadia Murad Basee Taha, a survivor of Da'esh human trafficking who presented her testimony earlier today, as a Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking.

Prevention is key in both conflict and non-conflict situations. The role in prevention of personnel deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations should be enhanced. Developing predeployment curriculums that emphasize the specifics of trafficking in persons would help to increase peacekeepers' knowledge of the problem in order to help them better identify and combat it. Everyone with access to areas of conflict, including representatives of civil society and humanitarian actors, should also receive this type of training.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2016/949) identifies the complex nexus that exists between trafficking in persons, organized crime, corruption, armed conflict and terrorism. But it requires further mapping. We cannot successfully combat human trafficking at the national level alone, for cooperation at the regional and international levels is also key. Civil society, the private sector and the media should be major partners in that regard. Ensuring the continued use of mechanisms to combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, including sanctions regimes, will contribute further to tracking

and halting the problem. We believe we should also make use of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which gives us a clear mandate for taking immediate and effective measures to eradicate modern slavery and human trafficking. After drug trafficking, human trafficking is the world's single-largest criminal enterprise. Its commodity is human beings, bought and sold with no consideration for human dignity. Today there are more slaves in the world than there have ever been in the history of humankind — an estimated 27 million adults and 13 million children.

Romania's national anti-human-trafficking agency coordinates the activities of the authorities dealing with human trafficking, as well as protecting and assisting victims. It is currently cooperating with 64 different partners, including some from civil society. There is a dedicated unit within the Romanian national police of 15 regional teams of specialized officers, totalling 250 operational staff. Our police border department has 400 officers attached to Frontex, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, working with European border and coast guard teams fighting human and drug trafficking. Twenty-two Romanian debriefing experts are also helping to identify trafficking victims among immigrants. Romanian personnel in United Nations peacekeeping operations receive predeployment training on how to identify and protect victims of human trafficking.

Finally, Romania remains fully committed to the global efforts to deal with this issue. The fight is part of our collective sense of humanity.