

**Ms. Tuñez (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*):**

At the outset, I should like to thank the United Kingdom for organizing this debate. We emphasize the fact that this debate is being held at the same time as the ongoing session of the Women's Legal and Social Commission.

Argentina considers that the fight against trafficking in persons and forced labor must be comprehensive, since it includes a multiplicity of actors at various levels, and that it must be waged within the framework of the defence and promotion of human rights. We therefore believe it appropriate for such topics to be addressed as a matter of priority by the General Assembly.

In that context, Argentina maintains a strong commitment to the fight against human trafficking as the most extreme form of violence. We are committed at the multilateral level and promote national policies to eliminate this scourge. At the national level, in 2013 we established the Executive Committee for Combating Trafficking and Exploitation of Persons and for the Protection and Assistance of Victims. Also, in July 2016 we convened for the first time the Federal Council for Combating Trafficking, which I have the honor of coordinating, with the aim of designing a federal strategy to eradicate human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women in prostitution.

These concrete actions demonstrate the political will of the State to address the various dimensions of the scourge of human trafficking. Based on the new international consensus reached in September 2015 with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals and corresponding targets, all States pledged under Goal 8.7 to "[t]ake immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour".

With regard to forced labour, Argentina supports the initiative of Alliance 8.7, promoted by the United Kingdom, and is among those countries that have been part of it since its inception. Argentina is also a member of the Group of Friends of Decent Work for Sustainable Development, created in 2014. Child labour is strongly linked to forced labour, according to data from the International Labour Organization. Of the 21 million annual victims of forced labour, 5.5 million are children, in flagrant violation of article 32 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

In line with Argentina's historic commitment to combating child labour, next November, along with the International Labour Organization, Argentina will host the fourth Global Conference on Child Labour, whose theme will be eliminating child labour and forced labour and the generation of quality jobs for youth.

Finally, with regard to the relationship between trafficking in persons and forced labour and terrorism, Argentina had the honor of co-facilitating, along with Iceland, General Assembly resolution 70/291, entitled

"The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review", which expresses concern that in some regions terrorists may benefit from transnational organized crime, including trafficking in persons. Argentina reiterates its renewed commitment to combating trafficking in persons, forced labour and all forms of slavery in every situation, as well as the need for this issue to continue to be addressed at the General Assembly.