

Mr. Bin Momen (Bangladesh):

I join other representatives in condemning the terrorist attacks that took place yesterday in Russia and in Germany.

Trafficking and forced labour constitute a “heart of darkness” in our world. It is evident that some international terrorist groups are resorting to trafficking in persons to bolster their power, recruitment base and finances. We are concerned that certain State authorities also remain complicit with human trafficking networks to add to the precarious situation of civilians subject to forced displacement.

The nexus between trafficking in persons and other types of organized crime is becoming increasingly manifest. A sustained, coordinated and coherent response by the international, regional and national entities concerned is required to effectively pre-empt and disrupt that nexus, especially when it involves women and children.

To this effect, we take note of the comprehensive resolution 2331 (2016) adopted by the Council today. We would have preferred an inclusive, participatory approach to the draft, considering its importance to the wider membership.

From our national perspective, we wish to underline four points.

First, despite robust counter-trafficking legislations and action plans, prosecution and conviction in trafficking-related cases remain low. There is no alternative to regional and international cooperation in information-sharing and mutual legal assistance. We urge all source, transit and destination countries to accede and adhere to the relevant international legal instruments.

Secondly, human traffickers tend to benefit from the divergences between and discrimination in the systemic and policy responses to immigration and asylum in different countries. The global compact for safe, regular and orderly migration should promote a regular flow of migration and a sound, global migration governance system that is based on a set of legally binding and non-binding norms and approaches.

Thirdly, the stigma of human trafficking must be shifted from the victims to the perpetrators. Accountability and justice for victims should remain above undue politicization, and the Trust Funds established by the United Nations to support victims must see an enhanced flow of resources.

Fourthly, training and sensitization concerning trafficking in persons in conflict situations would indeed add value to the relevant United Nations peacekeeping operations. Any possible linkage with trafficking in case of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse

by peacekeepers must be based on credible information and evidence.

In the aftermath of the Andaman Sea refugee crisis in early 2015, we saw that sustained surveillance and awareness-building at the community level are some of the most effective tools against trafficking in persons. Bangladesh remains committed to international efforts to combat that scourge, pursuant to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating the Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, among others.