

**Mr. Sobral Duarte (Brazil):**

Human trafficking and slavery in all their forms are among the most despicable crimes known to humanity, as they affect those most vulnerable, such as migrants and internally displaced persons, especially women and girls. When committed in conflict situations, such acts might even amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. The victims of these crimes are often subjected to organ harvesting, sexual exploitation, forced labour or forced marriage. Brazil supports efforts aimed at helping victims recover their dignity and ensuring that they have access to justice.

Displaced communities are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and enslavement by criminal groups and terrorist organizations. Long-term solutions can arise only from multilateral approaches to peace and security that address the underlying causes of conflicts and firmly set dialogue and mediation as priorities. More often than not, military intervention leads to increased civilian suffering and vulnerability. The expansion of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant into Libyan territory is a reminder of the destabilization that may result from military action.

The international community can do more to combat this scourge. Little regard and few resources have been given to sustain peace in crisis or in post-conflict situations. Closer cooperation among States and international agencies can help rescue victims and bring traffickers to justice. Advancing the universality of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court would contribute to ensuring accountability for those responsible for such crimes, when committed in the context of an armed conflict.

Terrorism and transnational organized crime are different problems that require different remedies. The interrelationship between them may, obviously, arise under specific circumstances, but should in no way be deemed universal or predetermined. It is important to pay attention to the forum in which these issues should be primarily discussed. Terrorism, as a threat to international peace and security, should be addressed in the Council. Organized crime, in turn, remains primarily a domestic public-security issue. It is more appropriately addressed as a matter of enhanced international cooperation than as an issue pertaining to collective security.

While human trafficking and slavery occur in scenarios plagued by armed conflict, there are no automatic linkages between these phenomena. They also take place in situations that do not threaten international peace and security. For these issues to be effectively addressed by the United Nations in all their forms, the Security Council should be mindful of the mandate and technical expertise of the General Assembly and of the Human Rights Council, as well as of the crucial role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this realm.

Migration itself should not be criminalized or confused with the criminalization of trafficking in persons. Our actions should aim at protecting the rights of and providing assistance to those people who are forced to leave their homes and fall prey to human traffickers. The international community has a responsibility to act to find a solution of the refugee crisis. It is not coherent to make a case for the responsibility to protect and the protection of civilians while turning our backs on those fleeing conflict and persecution.

As my country's experience in granting humanitarian visas to Haitians since 2012 has shown, one of the most effective means of dismantling criminal human-trafficking networks is to provide regular and safe ways of entry for those forced to move.

Let us all work together to ensure that human trafficking and slavery in all their forms can be brought to a definitive end and that its victims can resume their lives with dignity and, above all, with hope.

