

Ms. Bogyay (Hungary):

First of all, I would like to thank the United Kingdom for organizing this very important open debate here at the Security Council.

Modern slavery is a crime of the twenty-first century. It is adaptive, cynical, sophisticated and extremely complex, and, as such, it is a crime that can be fought only by applying modern, innovative, adaptable approaches that utilize the findings of new research and the latest technology. Our actions need to be tailored to the specific case at hand. Moreover, our response has to be gender- and age-sensitive, as well as specific to the type of exploitation in question.

I would like to emphasize the need for the United Nations to play a leadership role in the fight against all forms of modern slavery. Today, we are discussing a topic that is complex. Numerous United Nations entities — not only the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, but also the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the International Organization for Migration, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Women and UNICEF — are mandated to work on specific aspects of this challenge.

Unfortunately, duplication of efforts is frequent, and we can even find competition, and that helps no one. The complexity of the problem requires a strengthened, better coordinated and coherent United Nations response, and it is also the very minimum that the millions of victims deserve. Moreover, this is exactly what the leaders of 193 States Members of the United Nations called for when they adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and what the Security Council requested in resolution 2331 (2016).

Taking all the foregoing into account, we encourage the Secretary-General to place this issue high on his agenda, align it with the prevention-focused reform efforts and play a proactive role in fostering better coordination and deepening cooperation, in particular within but also beyond the United Nations. Appointing a special envoy tasked with facilitating coordination, strengthening the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and/or convening a task force to guide how the United Nations response should be further strengthened are just some options.

I wish to announce that later this year, Hungary will host the regional consultations of the ILO-launched Alliance 8.7 initiative, the very purpose of which is to strengthen cooperation and coordination among United Nations entities and other key stakeholders. Hungary is looking forward to the 2017 review process of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, and we are ready to participate actively in future discussions.

I truly believe that we have to raise awareness and make this crime as visible as we can throughout the world — through the media, through artistic expression, with journalists and artists working together. We have to make everybody aware of and understand this crime. Further, while we encourage the broadest possible ratification of the Palermo Protocol and the Protocol of 2014 to the ILO Forced Labour Convention, we wish to emphasize that effective implementation of these international instruments is also essential.

Ensuring accountability is a must. States should step up their efforts to find the perpetrators and bring them to justice. Given the transboundary nature of these crimes, international judicial and law enforcement cooperation is fundamental. In this context, I would also like to highlight the potential of the mechanism currently being established to assist in the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the most serious crimes committed in Syria, including those that fall within the theme of today's open debate. Hungary has offered its voluntary contribution to the mechanism, and we encourage others to do the same.

