

Mrs. Yembise (Indonesia):

Let me first thank the United Kingdom for convening today's open debate. I also thank the Secretary-General and all the briefers.

Governments nowadays face increasing challenges as the movement of people becomes more and more prevalent and complex in nature. Conflicts, wars and social unrest in many parts of the world have exacerbated the complexity and have forced people to leave their homes. The trafficking of vulnerable people, especially women and children, who should be protected in conflict situations, is a dreadful crime. Trafficking in persons is a serious violation of human rights that must continue to be condemned in the strongest sense possible. There is an immediate obligation to identify and provide safety and protection to victims of human trafficking while addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, including women and children, and taking into account prevailing national laws and circumstances.

The problem of trafficking is cross-border in nature and only a cross-border response and cooperation can succeed. Indonesia is co-chair, with Australia, of the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime,. It has more than 48 members, including international organizations. The Bali Process recently established a Working Group on Disruption of Criminal Networks Involved in People Smuggling and Trafficking in Persons. During its initial Joint Period of Action, eight countries conducted separate but coordinated law enforcement operations against criminal syndicates.

Indonesia is also in the process of ratifying the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Indonesia believes that coordination and cooperation across the whole region is essential in the handling of human trafficking.

We acknowledge the need for robust mechanisms that promote international cooperation, including law enforcement cooperation, mutual legal assistance and extradition. We encourage further law enforcement capacity-building to combat people smugglers and human traffickers. Indonesia fully supports every effort to stop the perpetrators of human trafficking, especially parties that exploit the vulnerabilities of populations affected by conflict.

The best way to narrow the chances of armed groups, terrorists and transnational criminal networks to exploit the vulnerabilities of civilians caught in conflict is to de-escalate or prevent the conflict and human trafficking.

Given the nexus between conflict-prevention and sustaining peace, it is important to have a comprehensive approach whereby socioeconomic development and security challenges are addressed simultaneously. Peacekeeping efforts should be geared towards building trust and confidence among all parties. Recognizing and responding to human trafficking should be part of the training activities of humanitarian personnel and peacekeepers. All those to be deployed in conflict and post-conflict zones need to be trained on the gender perspective and conflict-related crimes. On our part, the Indonesian National Armed Forces Peacekeeping Mission Centre at Sentul, Indonesia, has developed and implemented an integrated gender perspective in predeployment training for Indonesian and regional peacekeepers.

In conclusion, let us spare no effort in fighting human trafficking. Indonesia, as a candidate for a non-permanent membership of the Security Council in 2019-2020, remains committed to working with the international community to put an end to human trafficking and to the misery it has caused.