

Ms. Jáquez Huacuja (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*):

While the General Assembly has exhaustively addressed human trafficking, we commend the Security Council for its efforts to delve into the subject. It is one of the most shocking challenges facing the international community and one that affects all regions of the world, without exception, since every country is, or could become, the origin, transit or destination country for victims of this threat. We must emphatically condemn the fact that, in armed conflict, refugees, displaced persons and immigrants — particularly women and girls — are consistently extremely vulnerable to human trafficking, in addition to frequently being victims of abduction, sexual violence and abuse.

The 2016 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, issued by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, reflects the dismal overall picture of human trafficking, which continues to claim many victims every day. The findings of that report must form the basis of our strategies, programmes and plans for preventing and combating this scourge. The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons,

Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, enables international legal cooperation and bolsters common efforts to prevent, punish and investigate this offence.

Similarly, full compliance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes another essential tool to attack the structural factors that contribute to trafficking, such as extreme poverty, social exclusion, discrimination and the lack of opportunities. Pursuant to Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda, we must put a stop to illicit financial flows and prevent organized crime and terrorist groups from enriching themselves. We can no longer allow the trafficking of women and girls to finance criminal activity.

Finally, we must strengthen the multilateral framework with national strategies and concrete measures, with an emphasis on protecting and assisting victims. For that purpose, my country has taken three steps. First, we have undertaken legal and institutional reforms to better address human trafficking in an effort to identify, investigate and punish its perpetrators and prevent the commission of this crime. In the past seven years, 733 people were sentenced in Mexico. Secondly, we have set up and have put in motion a national commission on human trafficking to benefit from the joint efforts of Government authorities, civil society and the academic sector. Thirdly, we have implemented a national detection instrument, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in order to be able to benefit from timely and reliable information on the trend in Mexico. We currently benefit from the technical assistance of UNODC in a national campaign to combat this crime among vulnerable

groups.