

**Mr. Plasai (Thailand):**

First of all, I wish, on behalf of my Government, to express our deepest condolences to the Russian Federation for the tragic assassination of Ambassador Andrei Karlov in Ankara yesterday.

The prevalence of human trafficking in conflict situation is of grave concern and requires collective and comprehensive efforts and an immediate and decisive response. We share with previous speakers the concern regarding the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking, particularly the cases that involve United Nations personnel and peacekeepers. As a troop-contributing country, the Kingdom of Thailand welcomes the efforts of the Security Council and the United Nations system to address and respond to reports of trafficking in persons, as well as sexual exploitation and abuse, in the context of United Nations peacekeeping operations.

My delegation welcomes the adoption of resolution 2331 (2016). We reaffirm our commitment to cooperating with the international community in combatting all forms of human trafficking, and we place that agenda at the top of our national priorities. We are trying to effectively address this critical issue through a five-pillar strategy, which is very much in line with the globally recognized strategy of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in addressing human trafficking. The five pillars are: policy, prosecution, protection, prevention and partnership. The implementation of the strategy focuses on nine key areas, namely, the rule of

law, anti-complicity and anti-corruption, expediting the administrative and judicial process against human trafficking cases, effectiveness of frontline operations, reduction of risk for vulnerable groups, improved victim and witness protection, integrated efforts against child exploitation, enhanced partnership, and public awareness and outreach.

Concerning policy, I would like to underline that our policy focuses on taking steps to ensure the effective implementation of our international obligations, particularly the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

The Kingdom of Thailand has made consistent efforts to strengthen its judicial institutions and improve its proactive law enforcement, in order to investigate cases, rescue victims and prosecute those involved with human trafficking syndicates in a timely and efficient manner. We place high priority on protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking by addressing all aspects of their essential needs. We support the creation of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, which provides humanitarian, legal and

financial aid to victims of human trafficking. We therefore strongly encourage Member States in a position to do so to contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund.

With regard to prevention, the most efficient preventive measure is to tackle the root causes of conflict, in order to reduce the risk of conflict-affected vulnerable groups falling into the hands of human traffickers. National and local campaigns, as well as community-based activities, have been carried out to raise awareness of human trafficking.

Concerning partnership, the Royal Thai Government attaches importance to forging strategic partnerships with the private sector, civil society, academia and the media in the fight against human trafficking. We are also of the view that close cooperation with key stakeholders at all levels is crucial for achieving a sustainable solution to the problem.

The success of our common fight against human trafficking requires an integrated approach and well-coordinated efforts of all concerned. The United Nations can play a leading role in that regard. October 2017 will be an opportune time to strengthen those efforts, as the international community will be appraising the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons through a mandated high-level meeting of the General Assembly. We hope that the meeting will help to identify the challenges and gaps in the implementation of the Plan of Action and enhance States' capacity to put an end to this heinous crime.