

Mr. Begeç (Turkey):

At the outset, let me reiterate once again our words of condemnation, condolence and solidarity to the Russian and German delegations with regard to the latest terrorist attacks.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2016/949) and our briefers for their presentations. Turkey welcomes the adoption today of resolution 2331 (2016). We also welcome the participation of the President of the Government of Spain, Mr. Rajoy Brey's, in today's discussion.

Human trafficking constitutes a violation of human rights and an offence to the dignity and integrity of human beings. It is also a form of serious transnational organized crime, which bears immense costs on the social and economic fabric of our societies. The grave scale of the humanitarian emergencies, the majority of which are man-made conflicts, is increasing the number of vulnerable people. The rising trends in forced displacement is heightening the risks for the human trafficking of those displaced. Women and children are particularly more affected by these developments.

Meanwhile, the expanding human mobility, which is essentially a positive contribution to our globalized world, brings together new challenges and responsibilities. For this we should better coordinate our efforts against migrant smuggling and human trafficking. The use of human trafficking by terrorist organizations, such as Da'esh, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab in conflict zones, is truly worrying. In connection to this, the nexus between conflict-related sexual violence and human trafficking needs to be better understood.

Turkey remains strongly committed to eradicating human trafficking. As a transnational threat, it requires a commensurate and collective response. To this end, Turkey introduced numerous administrative and legal measures in combating human trafficking through prevention, protection, prosecution and cooperation. At the international level, Turkey is a party to the Palermo Convention and its supplementary protocols. At the domestic level, our efforts are focused on two tracks: enhancing our legislation and improving the implementation of our obligations. The National Task Force on the Fight against Human Trafficking was established in 2002, and so far two national action plans in the fight against human trafficking were developed and put into practice. These plans aim to achieve the implementation of international standards in the fight against human trafficking, eradicate the phenomenon in Turkey and strengthen relevant institutions through enhancing harmonization with the European Union acquis.

More recently, a regulation on combatting human trafficking and the protection of victims was published in the *Official Gazette* in March. In order to implement this in a more effective way, the Department for the Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking

was established under the Ministry of the Interior. The Department is responsible for combatting human trafficking and the protection of victims through the implementation of various projects. One example is a helpline for victims of human trafficking, which was developed in cooperation with the International Organization for Migration. Another example is the dual services, entitled “Victim Support Programme” and “Voluntary and Safe Return Programme”, which aim to better assist the victims of human trafficking.

In order to address trafficking in the context of displacement, we should recalibrate our ongoing efforts in line with the commitments that we have undersigned in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. As the biggest refugee hosting country, with over 3 million Syrians and Iraqis, Turkey is undertaking the necessary measures to prevent human trafficking among those who already fled the horrors of conflict.

We welcome the strong condemnation in today’s resolution of the activities of Da’esh related to human trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. Turkey remains one of the primary targets of Da’esh’s threat and recently faced the most ruthless form of its terrorism. In line with relevant Council resolutions, we have taken comprehensive and effective measures to combat Da’esh’s finances and disrupt and prevent this Organization from raising, moving and using funds.

We thank Spain for contributing to the Council’s work on trafficking in persons by organizing this debate. Due to its unique geographical location and the proximity to today’s conflicts, Turkey will continue to display a decisive and progressive approach to human trafficking.