

Mr. Kyslytsya (Ukraine) (spoke in Spanish):

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the European Union and wishes to make the following statement in its national capacity. First of all, taking advantage of the fact that the President of the Government of Spain is presiding over the Security Council, I would like to express, on behalf of Ukraine, our sincere gratitude and appreciation for Spain's contribution to the work of the Council and its dedication and effectiveness during these two years. The active participation of Ambassador Oyarzun Marchesi and his team on such important issues on the Council's agenda, such as the fight against terrorism, non-proliferation and the promotion of human rights, serves as an example for permanent and non-permanent members of the Council. In particular, we appreciate the consistent and persistent position of Spain in the promotion of gender equality.

Resolution 2242 (2015), the Informal Expert Group on Women and Peace and Security, which was established by the delegations of Spain and Great Britain, and the launch of the Network of National Coordinators for Women and Peace and Security are S/PV.7847 Maintenance of international peace and security 20/12/2016 12/79 16-45113 just a few of the examples of real achievements made by Spain to improve the efficiency of the Organization, particularly of the Security Council I would also like to emphasize the importance of the topic proposed for discussion in today's open debate. The issue of human trafficking has been the focus of attention of the United Nations in recent decades. The Palermo Protocol of 2000 and the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons of 2010 are cornerstones and key documents for all States Members of the Organization.

Nonetheless, in recent years, we have observed an evolution of human trafficking, especially in situations of conflict and post-conflict. In different parts of the world affected by conflict, sexual violence is used as a destructive tactic of war or terrorism, as well as one of the key elements of the ideology and activities of extremist groups, such as Boko Haram and Da'esh. The terrorist groups that I just mentioned are openly promoting human trafficking as part of their military strategy or as a source of funding. That is why the connection between phenomena like human trafficking, sexual violence in conflict situations and the activities of terrorist organizations requires special attention from the Security Council. The adoption of resolution 2331 (2016) is a timely measure that demonstrates the ability of the Security Council to respond to the new challenges and threats that arise in the area of peace and security.

We cannot close our eyes in the face of the situation on the ground. We cannot wait for the number of victims of sexual exploitation and sexual violence related to trafficking to reach the terrible numbers of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina or the genocide in Rwanda. A constant problem is the underestimation of data on sexual violence in conflicts. That is mainly because of stigma, fear of reprisals, lack of access for monitoring and inadequate means to ensure accountability. That is why it is important that the resolution adopted today be a new tool for the Security Council that helps facilitate the assessment of the situation on the ground in conflict zones and post-conflict situations. That will allow us to study and reflect on in future reports of the Secretary-General the problem of the connection between human trafficking and the activities of traffickers and terrorist groups. Ukraine strongly supports international efforts to combat all forms of human rights violations and abuses in conflict and post-conflict situations. The fight

against trafficking in persons was identified as one of the priorities of the Government of Ukraine in the area of the protection of human rights.

At the same time, I would like to reiterate my country's request to include in the respective mandates of the Organization consideration of the problem of sexual violence in the Ukrainian territories temporarily occupied by Russia. In view of the fact that Ukraine's police and security agencies do not have access to the territory of Crimea, which is occupied by Russia, or to certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which are controlled by terrorists supported by Russia, we must resolve the problem of the verification and documentation of cases of sexual violence in those territories in order to provide support and assistance to victims. I am convinced that General Assembly resolution 71/202, adopted yesterday, on human rights in the temporarily occupied territory of Crimea provides the United Nations with the necessary authority to compel Russia to fulfil its responsibilities as an occupying Power, as it is defined in the resolution. It is sad that we are talking about a country that, as a permanent member of the Security Council, must assume special responsibility to fulfil the Charter of the United Nations, even though it became a State Member of the United Nations only 25 years ago.

Finally, I would like to mention another issue of great importance to all of us, that is, accountability and the prosecution of perpetrators of human trafficking and crimes of sexual violence in conflict. The high level of impunity for those who commit such crimes in conflict is unacceptable, as the repetition of those crimes creates a vicious cycle of criminality. Together with the provision of psychological, social and medical support to victims, we consider the fight against impunity a priority.