

**Ms. Wilson (Australia):**

I will start by joining others in expressing our condolences to Russia for the shocking attack on its Ambassador in Turkey yesterday. Our thoughts and sadness are with family and loved ones and the Russian people at this terrible time.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made earlier by the representative of Liechtenstein.

Australia is deeply concerned about trafficking in persons. We know that armed conflict and instability — and the resulting economic desperation — amplifies the risk of human trafficking for vulnerable people, especially women and children, people with disabilities, migrants and displaced people. Sadly, refugee and internal displacement camps are particularly fertile ground for human traffickers. With the highest-ever number of people displaced in the world today, there are now a great many who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking, and we must work to protect them from this scourge.

We have a shared responsibility to disrupt this evil trade and address its root causes. No one State or organization can do it alone. Australia encourages United Nations efforts to strengthen coordination to develop a more strategic and coherent international response. We consider that Alliance 8.7 is a useful vehicle for bringing key United Nations agencies, Member States and non-governmental stakeholders together, to accelerate efforts to effectively combat trafficking. We should also ensure that the 2017 review of the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons makes a practical contribution.

Preventing and combating human trafficking and slavery is a priority of the Australian Government. We are working with countries in the Asia-Pacific region to stamp out these barbaric and criminal practices and to find innovative development approaches that stimulate opportunity and hope for people as close to their homes as possible, in order to reduce their vulnerability. Through the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, Australia is working with Indonesia, with which we co-Chair the Process, to reinvigorate efforts to establish regional cooperation on these issues. In March 2016, we adopted the Bali Declaration, which represents strengthened political commitment to protecting vulnerable people who are on the move in our region.

In May, the Bali Process held a regional forum on using financial investigation tools and techniques to investigate, disrupt and prosecute human-trafficking cases. In terms similar to those set out in the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/949), it highlighted the benefits of using "follow the money" techniques in human-trafficking cases.

In May next year, we will launch the Bali Process Business Forum, which will highlight the importance of involving business in addressing and preventing human trafficking. The Forum will bring together private sector leaders from the 45 member countries of the Bali Process to focus on best practices in eradicating human trafficking and slavery and to make recommendations to ministers.

We must remain focused and continue to work together diligently to stamp out trafficking in persons, prosecute those who perpetuate this heinous crime, address the needs of victims and protect those who are most vulnerable.