

Mr. Djani (Indonesia):

Let me start by expressing our deepest condolences to the Government and Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation for the tragic attack against His Excellency Ambassador Andrey Karlov. Our condolences also go to the victims of the Berlin market attack. Our prayers go to their bereaved families.

I would like to thank Spain for convening this open debate. I also thank His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon and the other briefers for their remarks.

All human beings possess fundamental human rights, which are inherent to their noble dignity and respect. Trafficking in persons is a wicked crime that violates those rights. The trafficking of vulnerable people, especially women and children, who should be protected in conflict situations, is an even more heinous crime; they are deceived or abducted into exploitation, torture and servitude. Indonesia condemns modern slavery and human trafficking and supports their elimination. Like others, we welcome the adoption of resolution 2331 (2016) today.

Recognizing the seriousness of the problem, the Indonesian Government has taken concrete action at the national, regional and international levels. At the national level, the Government of Indonesia enacted Law Number 21 of 2007, which criminalizes all kinds of human trafficking. At the regional level, Indonesia and Australia initiated the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, in 2002. Besides effectively raising regional awareness of the consequences of people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crimes, the Bali Process has also developed and implemented strategies and practical cooperation in its response.

At the international level, Indonesia has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. In 2015, we joined the international community in adopting the Sustainable Development Goals, which, inter alia, also commit to taking action against human trafficking.

Despite a strong collective push to raise the bar in stopping such human exploitation at all levels, there has been intense defiance from the perpetrators. However, the international community cannot relent in discouraging human trafficking in conflict zones. All methods, including denouncing, disrupting and protecting should be exercised. But perhaps the best method would be prevention and protection, which can be achieved in many ways.

First and foremost, investing in the prevention of conflict is one of the best protections against human trafficking. Yet in cases where conflict prevention may not necessarily be

possible, the international community needs to commit to resolve the conflicts in which human trafficking thrives.

Secondly, we should more robustly implement the international Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, including in conflict settings — be it the trafficking of persons who are fleeing a conflict or those trafficked into forced military service and in post-conflict reconstruction work.

Thirdly, the United Nations system's capabilities could be enhanced to protect those vulnerable to human trafficking in conflict. We could analyse further ways to incorporate humanitarian actions with human trafficking. From the outset of a conflict crisis, anti-trafficking measures should be incorporated into all humanitarian interventions in conflict zones as part of life-saving protection activities.

It is unfortunate that humanitarian action is intended in some cases to be a temporary fix for populations that are experiencing hazardous situations. We should take a long-term view in terms of empowering vulnerable populations, so that they can play an active role in preventing human trafficking. In short, it is pertinent to employ anti-trafficking strategies in the planning and implementation of humanitarian responses, so as to ensure durable solutions.

Lastly, those who engage in human trafficking will remain determined to challenge our cause. The international community must never relent in countering human traffickers. Let us fight against exploitation and bring those responsible to account and to justice. We must preserve the dignity of all human beings.