

Mr. Tumysh (Kazakhstan):

We would like to join others in condemning the terrorist attacks that took place in Ankara and Berlin yesterday. We express our deep condolences to the Russian Federation and to Germany.

Kazakhstan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the representative of the Kingdom of Bahrain on behalf of the 24 States members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking.

We commend the tireless efforts and special expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and other relevant United Nations system organizations. We also value UNODC's able coordination of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons and sound management of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. We support strengthened coordination between the Inter-Agency Coordination Group and Member States to enhance the effectiveness of the response to the current challenges of human trafficking.

We reaffirm our commitment to the landmark United Nations Global Plan of Action against Trafficking in Persons, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, supplementing the Convention to direct coordinated and inclusive responses. We therefore call upon Member States to universalize the ratification of all relevant anti-trafficking legal instruments.

The threat posed by terrorist organizations is a matter of special concern for Kazakhstan. General Assembly resolution, 70/291 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy review, recognized the nexus between trafficking in persons and terrorism. Human trafficking is a critical component of the financial flows of terrorist groups and money-laundering by organized crime networks, which pose a threat to international peace and security. Hence, we urge States to mobilize a stronger and more vigilant global response.

We believe that it is critical and mandatory to train all peacekeeping and other personnel deployed in conflict and post-conflict zones to respond effectively to trafficking in persons, with training in gender sensitivity and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse, especially those perpetuated by peacekeepers. Peace and development are the foundations of stable society and human well-being, and need enormous resources for poverty eradication, education, employment and provision of services. Kazakhstan has therefore proposed that Member States consider allocating annually 1 per cent of their defence budget to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Fund.

At the national level, Kazakhstan is addressing human trafficking by accelerating the work of its interagency commission, in close interaction with non-governmental organizations and relevant international organizations as part of the fourth cycle of its 2015-2017 national plan.

At the regional level, we interact in an effective manner with the Commonwealth of Independent States through its 2014-2018 regional programme and with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) as a part of the OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons. Kazakhstan has also initiated the Almaty Process, which serves as a platform for nine countries of the region to annually step up their response and enhance cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

As an incoming non-permanent member of the Security Council for 2017-2018, Kazakhstan is pleased to support resolution 2331 (2016) and reaffirms its strong commitment to reaching visible results in combating trafficking in human beings.