

Mrs. Abylkassymova (Kazakhstan):

We thank the British presidency for highlighting the gravity of human trafficking in conflict situations. We acknowledge with appreciation the Secretary-General's stewardship and moral voice to halt that scourge. We appreciate the briefings of Executive Director Fedotov, Commissioner Hyland and social activist Elman. My delegation offers some remarks for the Security Council's consideration.

The synergy of expertise of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as the lead agency, and other relevant agencies of the United Nations system must be strengthened. We urge greater collaboration within the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and the sound management of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. We support strengthened coordination between ICAT and Member States, which will enhance the effectiveness of the response to the current challenges of human trafficking.

All countries need to ratify, universalize and reaffirm their commitment to the landmark United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as well as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols; and all other anti-trafficking legal instruments. Accountability should be an important benchmark for all Member States.

At the same time, criminal justice responses, while essential, are not sufficient alone prevent and address human trafficking in situations affected by conflict. Peace and development lay the foundations of a stable society and human well-being. It is also essential to increase funding for poverty eradication, education, employment, and the provision of services in countries affected by conflict.

Terrorist groups treat slavery and human trafficking not just as a means to generate free labour services and profit, but also as a recruiting tool and a means to degrade and displace civilians. Hence, we urge States to mobilize a stronger and more vigilant global response. We must therefore strengthen the implementation of General Assembly resolution 70/291, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review, so that we can break the close nexus between trafficking in persons and terrorism. We need to cut off the sources of income and financial flows of terrorist groups resulting from human trafficking.

The money-laundering channels of organized crime networks must also be blocked. Therefore, we see the need for improved data-sharing, especially between law enforcement and financial sectors, in order to identify, disrupt and dismantle networks involved in human trafficking in conflict. It should be mandatory to train all peacekeeping and other personnel in gender sensitivity so that they may respond effectively to trafficking in persons. Preventing sexual exploitation and abuse, especially when perpetrated by peacekeepers, must be a priority.

We see a pressing need for strengthening cooperation among the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the African Union, the League of Arab States, INTERPOL and other global and regional organizations. The Central Asian and Commonwealth of Independent States countries should step up their Regional Programme for 2014-2018, as well as the OSCE Alliance against Trafficking in Persons, of which Kazakhstan is an active member. My country has also initiated the Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration, which serves as a platform for nine countries of the region to step up their response annually and to enhance cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration.

At the national level, we are accelerating the work of the Interagency Commission, in close interaction with non-governmental organizations and the relevant international organizations as part of the fifth cycle of its national plan.

Kazakhstan, as a member of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking and a sponsor of resolution 2331 (2016), reaffirms its strong commitment to reaching visible results in combating trafficking in human beings.