

Mr. Braun (Luxembourg) (*spoke in French*):

I thank the presidency of Spain for having taken the initiative of organizing this important open debate. I welcome the adoption of resolution 2331 (2016), which was the culmination of broad consultations outstandingly led by the Spanish delegation. The resolution ensures that this meeting will not be without consequences and that human trafficking in the context of conflict situations will remain a priority for the Council and every State Member of the United Nations.

Luxembourg aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union by Ms. Vassiliadou, the Anti-Trafficking Coordinator of the European Union. I would like to make four points.

First, at the United Nations level, we must strengthen the link between combating human trafficking and the implementation of efforts to end sexual violence and grave violations of children's rights in conflict situations. Resolution 2331 (2016) recognizes that link, and we encourage the Security Council and its sanctions committees to implement the provisions of that resolution, in particular by strengthening information-sharing with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, so as to be able to more effectively punish individuals involved in human trafficking in conflict areas.

At the European Union level, my country is committed to combating human trafficking, which affects vulnerable groups, such as migrants and refugees. Since 16 July 2015, we have provided a naval surveillance plane to Operation Sophia, the European naval force authorized by the Security Council, which contributes to the European Union's efforts to dismantle the economic machinery of trafficking networks and human traffickers in the southern part of the Mediterranean Sea.

At the regional level, in the framework of our chairmanship of the Economic Union of Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg (Benelux), we have endeavoured to bring together relevant actors, including non-governmental organizations, with a view to better caring for the victims of human trafficking. In particular, we signed a declaration confirming the resolve of the Benelux countries to strengthen cooperation among accommodation and assistance centres for victims of human trafficking, judicial authorities and police agencies, among others.

Finally, at the national level, we are in the process of completing our legislative arsenal. A bill is currently before Parliament that proposes in particular to punish any client soliciting the services of a sexually exploited victim of human trafficking. In the humanitarian area, we ensure that the protection of vulnerable people, including victims

of human trafficking, will be included in the programmes that we support in conflict areas.

The poignant account of the victims of human trafficking must motivate all of us to do more at all levels to end that scourge, which is fuelled by war and, in turn, fuels organized crime and terrorist networks. Last Thursday, our Minister for Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Jean Asselborn, had the honour of welcoming Nadia Mourad and Lamiya Aji Bachar to Luxembourg. Those two Yezidi persons, who had been relegated to the status of slaves by Da'esh, managed to escape from that hell. Today they bear witness to the fate of too many civilians — men, women and children — in

Syria and Iraq, but also in Nigeria, Somalia and Central Africa. Let us hear their call.