

Mr. Scappini Ricciardi (Paraguay) (*spoke in Spanish*):

Paraguay expresses its deep sadness and heartfelt condolences to the people and the Government of the Russian Federation in connection with the assassination of Ambassador Andrey Karlov in Ankara, and to the people and the Government of Germany for the attack perpetrated in Berlin. We hope that such terrible acts will not happen again.

We express our gratitude for the Secretary-General's report (S/2016/949). We welcome the initiative of the Spanish presidency to convene this open debate on trafficking in persons in conflict situations. We believe that this open debate will make it possible to become familiar with the opinions of Member States, as well as to try to determine the nexus between that scourge and violent extremism. That information will allow the Organization to design policies to confront those issues in an appropriate and effective way.

The Security Council, as well as all States Members of the Organization, must contribute to establishing an effective system for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. That system must also take into account mechanisms for dealing with and combating the trafficking in persons and sexual violence in its broadest sense, as well as violent extremism in relation to situations of armed conflict.

We believe that the Security Council must include, in a clear and explicit way, the protection of civilians in armed conflicts in the mandates of peacekeeping operations. In situations in which, owing to the nature of the conflict, those scourges pose significant threats, the mandates must incorporate both preventive mechanisms and protocols to take care of the victims and to ensure the surrender and accountability of the perpetrators.

It is crucial to recall that such violent deeds are exacerbated by restrictive and exclusionary migratory policies, which not only increase the vulnerability of victims but also prevent their identification and access to the medical and psychological services required. In that respect, Paraguay emphasizes the value of the appropriate education and training of contingents in peacekeeping operations, before and after their deployment, on aspects of preventing and combating such problems, as well as on the care for the victims of those crimes. It is critical to prevent the double stigmatization of the victims.

We must collaborate on the system for preventing and combating those scourges. At the same time, we need to provide care for the victims and to ensure the prosecution of those responsible, in a coordinated fashion and with full respect for States' sovereignty and for the principle of non-intervention in domestic affairs and in accordance with international law. Paraguay understands that it is also necessary to address the trafficking in persons in conflict situations within the framework of the General Assembly and in connection with

the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, specifically Goals 5.2, 8.7 and 16.2.

Finally, my country believes that Member States and the United Nations system must cooperate with States in conflict and post-conflict situations so as to reinforce their institutional capacities to effectively confront the challenges involved in combating such scourges.