

Mr. Ciss (Senegal) (*spoke in French*):

I join others on this solemn occasion to convey Senegal's sincere condolences to the Russian Federation following the assassination of its Ambassador in Turkey. This is also an appropriate opportunity for my delegation to reaffirm Senegal's firm condemnation of all forms of terrorism whatever their origin.

The Senegalese delegation welcomes the presence among us this morning of His Excellency Mr. Mariano Rajoy Brey, President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, who is presiding over today's open debate, which his country has decided to devote to an important subject, namely, trafficking in persons in conflict situations. The choice of this essential topic, as well as the unanimous adoption of resolution 2231 (2016) this morning, are undoubtedly further illustrations of the outstanding work carried out over the past two years by the Spanish delegation under the leadership of Ambassador Román Oyarzun Marchesi, whom we congratulate, together with the entire Spanish delegation.

I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his briefing and the other briefers this morning for the quality of their statements, which have increased our understanding of the magnitude and gravity of a scourge that shocks the conscience of everyone.

Multiple conflicts in various parts of the world are exacerbating emigration and are even forcing the displacement of populations compelled to flee their homes, exposing them to numerous threats and making them increasingly vulnerable, including to trafficking in persons organized by criminal networks, terrorist groups or armed gangs. The link between migration and human trafficking during conflict was highlighted in the 2016 report of the UNODC on the subject, which states that 60 per cent of victims of trafficking during armed conflict are refugees and asylum-seekers who have fled conflicts in their countries and are simply seeking better prospects.

Unfortunately, instead of realizing their dreams, many of these migrants are abducted and sold or held captive. The phenomenon becomes an even greater source of concern because these people are often subjected to forced marriage or even sexual slavery, for women and girls, or to forced labour, for men and boys, including in the mining sector, if they have not already become slaves or combatants.

I should like to echo the words of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, who said that trafficking in human beings is an umbrella term that comprises a range of barbaric practices, one more inhuman than the next. The phenomenon is of even greater concern when the perpetrators are extremist or non-State armed terrorist groups who are using the tactic to sow terror or as a strategy of war, with the aim of consolidating their ideology or power; strengthening their financial flows;

changing the composition of a community; or humiliating a given ethnic or religious group.

Even more unacceptable are the various forms of sexual violence and exploitation, particularly when they are linked to trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict. This is a centuries-old phenomenon that unfortunately continues, as we have seen with respect to the fates of the Chibok schoolgirls, abducted by Boko Haram in Nigeria in 2014, and of the Yazidi women and the women sold at the Raqqa market by Da'esh. In addition, such trafficking is facilitated through social networks.

Senegal reiterates its firm condemnation of all forms of sexual violence and exploitation. It believes that in the fight against this scourge, due attention must be given to the rehabilitation of victims and of the affected communities. We must wage a resolute fight against human trafficking during armed conflict, which not only constitutes a grave violation of human rights and international humanitarian law but also contributes to instability and to promoting terrorism.

Resolution 2331 (2016), which we have adopted today and of which Senegal was a sponsor, is surely a step in the right direction. The resolution calls on States to implement the provisions of resolution 2195 (2014), on the link between terrorism and transnational organized crime. It is also key to implement the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

We also call for a recasting of the global debate on the financing of violent extremism. We must combat this scourge in order to address fresh challenges and the economic and strategic underpinnings of trafficking in human beings, in particular women and children, in armed conflict.

Allow me to note here that Senegal has ratified virtually all international and regional instruments on migration and human trafficking. Furthermore, my country has a number of legislative and regulatory texts that address migration and human-trafficking issues, including a specific law pertaining to human trafficking and related practices and victim protection, which was adopted in 2005 and which supplements our criminal code. This law criminalizes trafficking in persons and related practices by highlighting the various forms of exploitation of vulnerable persons to which it leads and its transnational organized character. It also criminalizes organized illegal migration and trafficking in visas or other travel or identification documents.

In order to better ensure the effective suppression of trafficking in persons and migrant trafficking, chapter III of the 2005 law confers two types of jurisdiction on Senegalese courts: universal jurisdiction, through article 10, and passive personality jurisdiction, through article 11. This legal arsenal is further reinforced by a number of frameworks

that have been set up to address problems related to migrant trafficking and flows. For example, we have a centre that offers guidance to children in difficult situations, known as GINDI; an intersectoral committee to fight child labour; a directorate of correctional education and social protection; and a national unit to fight trafficking in persons, among others.

In terms of migration, Senegal's strategy is based primarily on a number of partnership agreements with countries of destination or transit for Senegalese migrants. Senegal and France signed such an agreement in September 2006 to jointly manage migratory flows between the two countries, and we also signed a memorandum with Spain on 9 November 2007. Senegal has devised an integrated national migration strategy, which has already shown some technical success, so as to more effectively address this phenomenon.

We wish to reiterate the importance of prevention, protection, reintegration and accountability in our tools to fight all of the problems facing humankind. Cooperation with traditional and religious leaders can play a significant role in setting up a communications strategy to deconstruct and counter the terrorist narrative.

Finally, I should like to recall that parties to conflict bear the responsibility, with the support of the international community, to put an end to sexual violence in armed conflict, through a number of efforts, including in the areas of prevention, assistance and protection. Beyond that, we must also deter, detect and put an end to human trafficking, particularly by violent extremist groups, as highlighted in the presidential statement on trafficking in persons adopted in December 2015 (S/PRST/2015/25).

Human trafficking during armed conflict poses a threat to stability, peacekeeping and national reconstruction. We must therefore work together to put an end to these heinous practices, which will be possible only if we all make a commitment to that end.