

**Mr. Ružička** (Slovakia):

In a few days, millions of people will celebrate the holiday season with families and friends, joyously giving and sharing. Just yesterday, the Security Council was able to adopt unanimously resolution 2328 (2016) to deploy observers to Aleppo — one of many steps to be taken to give millions of refugees and people in need the best gift, namely, a decent life in peace. Only several hours later, we heard about the terrible attacks in Berlin, Istanbul and Zurich. Our feelings and thoughts are with the families and friends of those who perished in those horrible attacks. Our sympathy goes out to our colleagues from Russia, Germany and Switzerland. But, honestly, the four minutes allotted for my intervention will not be enough to name all the countries that have had to experience terrorist attacks just this year.

Yet today we are discussing another phenomenon that is taking, or severely affecting, millions of lives, mostly young ones. Modern slavery is happening all around us in various forms, both in developed and in developing countries, affecting rich and poor societies, albeit in different ways. Human trafficking is the third- largest international criminal industry. It reportedly generates a profit of \$32 billion every year. In next four minutes of my statement, it will have generated approximately \$250,000. Of the sum total of revenue generated, \$15.5 billion is being made in industrialized countries. According to the International Labour Organization, forced labour in the private economy generates an estimated \$150 billion in illegal profits annually, which is approximately twice the gross domestic product of my country for 2015.

For every minute that we speak, at least one person is trafficked across international borders. Between 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked every year. Of those, 80 per cent are female or children. Trafficking for forced labour or sexual exploitation or for harvesting tissue, cells and organs represents the cruellest type of international organized crime and is well fuelled by poverty or conflict. We must do more than express our strong condemnation of trafficking in persons. Modern slavery undermines human dignity and human rights and affects human development. Let me make several points — seven, to be exact — that Slovakia considers important in effectively handling this crime.