

Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism
On the Occasion of the Launch of the draft Code of Conduct for the
Achievement of a Terrorism-Free World
18 January 2018, 3:30 pm, ECOSOC Chamber

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

His Excellency Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan

2017 marked a year of success for Kazakhstan on the global stage as a valuable peacemaker and a key player in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism that can be conducive to terrorism.

Excellencies,

The UN Secretary-General and Member States agree on the need to make counter-terrorism one of the highest priorities. The creation of the Office of Counter-Terrorism was the direct outcome of this agreement, making it the first reform initiative of the Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

This reform provides stronger leadership, enhanced coordination and better coherence across the United Nations -of- mobilizing political will and building robust partnerships to ensure a balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Excellencies,

In 2011, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, now an integral part of the Office of Counter-Terrorism, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, together with all Central Asian countries, developed a Joint Plan of Action to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional level.

Subsequently, with financial support from the European Union and the Government of Norway, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism has initiated a number of capacity-building projects to implement the priority areas of this Joint Plan of Action.

Two phases of implementation of this Plan were successfully conducted and they culminated in a ministerial conference of the five Central Asian States in Ashgabat chaired by the Secretary-General Guterres in June of last year to review the implementation of the Plan, assess progress and forge the path ahead. As an outcome of this conference the third phase of the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action has been developed.

On 1 June 2017, the Government of Kazakhstan made a voluntary contribution of USD 300,000 to support the new phase, becoming the first donor country in the region to financially support these efforts.

Excellencies,

Central Asia is the first region where the United Nations worked with Member States on such a plan to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at the regional level. The five countries are to be commended for their approach to multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation with the support of the United Nations. This is a real preventive action to counter terrorism.

There is no question that this threat is becoming increasingly global in its scope as we witnessed with Foreign Terrorist Fighters traveling from over 100 countries, including from Central Asian states. Despite the recent defeat of ISIL in Iraq and Syria, the global scourge of terrorism continues to evolve in new forms and to new regions of the world.

Achievement of a Terrorism-
deliberations on this issue among Member States are still ongoing, we look forward to their constructive outcome. These discussions are timely in the context of the upcoming Sixth Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the Summit of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, which the Secretary-General will convene at the end of June, 2018.

It is our sincere hope that strengthening multilateral cooperation through the Sixth Review and the Summit will increase capacity of the United Nations to provide enhanced support to Member States in implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy at all the levels, including regional and national, with more sustainable impact.

I wish to assure you of the strong personal commitment of the Secretary-General, of my own commitment, and that of our Office of Counter-Terrorism to work together with all relevant UN entities to enhance multilateral counter-terrorism cooperation. We look forward to proceed closely with the Republic of Kazakhstan and all Member States in this regard.

I would like to thank you for your attention.