



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Introductory Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**High-Level International Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism
Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – The Kuwait Phase of the
Dushanbe Process”**

Kuwait City, 4 November 2024

Your Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Mubarak Al Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait,
Your Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process High-Level Conference on Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms.

I extend my deepest gratitude to His Highness the Amir of the State of Kuwait, Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, for hosting this event, and to the Government of Kuwait for its generous hospitality.

I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation to His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon of Tajikistan for his leadership in establishing the Dushanbe Process in 2018.

His efforts have transformed the Dushanbe Process into a key platform for multilateral action and cooperation in the global fight against terrorism.

We are also deeply grateful to the State of Kuwait, and the Republic of Tajikistan for their support in advancing the Dushanbe Process

Today, more than 480 participants, including Ministers, high-level representatives of Member States, international and regional organizations, civil society, including youth and women's groups, are gathered here in Kuwait City.

This gathering reaffirms our collective commitment to multilateralism and counter-terrorism cooperation, and our shared goal of building secure and resilient borders to safeguard global peace and security.

International counter-terrorism cooperation should be the beacon for inspiring all stakeholders toward effective coordination and cooperation to secure their countries, and to prevent terrorist movements and operations across national borders.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The global security landscape continues to evolve, with terrorists exploiting the vulnerabilities of our borders. Recent expert reports show that over 40% of violent events and 10% of fatalities linked to political violence occur within 100 kilometers of a land border.

This correlation is particularly evident as regards the expanding terrorist presence towards coastal states in West Africa, such as Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana and Togo. The number of violent incidents in border areas has increased by 250% over the past two years.

These trends are taking place within the broader context of an evolving terrorist threat. According to the latest Global Terrorism Index, a 22% increase in global deaths from terrorism was recorded in 2023, with fatalities rising to more than 8,000, the highest recorded figure since 2017.

The use of established travel routes by terrorist groups such as Da'esh and Al-Qaida and their affiliates continue to pose a risk, especially in conflict-prone regions like the Sahel, where they can recruit, transport, and smuggle operatives across porous borders.

We reaffirm today the importance of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recently adopted *Pact for the Future*, both of which reflect the international community's commitment to addressing the drivers of terrorism and ensuring sustainable peace.

In this context, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, with 46 entities and its Border Management and Law Enforcement Working Group, remains pivotal to our efforts to deliver a coordinated UN response to terrorism.

Building on this collective effort, my Office leads two global, flagship programmes to assist Member States in strengthening border security: one focused on Border Security and Management and another one on Countering Terrorist Travel. Both are 'One-UN' initiatives, mobilizing the expertise and resources of specialized UN entities.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident that the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process will bolster regional and international counter-terrorism cooperation and help achieve a *Future Free from Terrorism*.

I hope the Kuwait Declaration, which we will adopt based on discussions and deliberations of the Conference, will reflect our joint commitment to strengthen border security mechanisms across the world.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would also like to emphasize that our strength lies in our unity, our collective resolve, and our unwavering commitment to upholding human rights while addressing our border security challenges.

Only by ensuring that our counter-terrorism efforts are aligned with the principles of human dignity, justice, and the rule of law, can we build a more secure and just future for all.

In closing, I would once again like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Governments of Kuwait and Tajikistan for their leadership and partnership in co-organizing this conference with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Thank you very much!

This event stands as a testament to Kuwait's commitment to preventive diplomacy, international peace and stability, and to Tajikistan's support for UN counter-terrorism efforts.

Thank you!

I would now give the floor to the first keynote speaker of this Conference, His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Mubarak Al Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait.

Your Highness, you have the floor.