



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

### **Closing Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General 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”**

**5 November 2024  
Kuwait City**

Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Ministers,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor to present a summary of the key outcomes of this Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process High-Level Conference.

First, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to His Highness Sheikh Sabah Khaled Al Hamad Al Mubarak Al Sabah, Crown Prince of the State of Kuwait, and the Government of Kuwait for their generous hospitality and leadership in hosting this conference, as well as to His Excellency President Emomali Rahmon for initiating the Dushanbe Process and his continued dedication to global counter-terrorism efforts.

Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the Government of Tajikistan for their dedication and vital political and substantive contributions to advancing the Dushanbe Process.

Over the past two days, we have engaged in in-depth discussions and exchanged experiences and good practices to strengthen border security and counter the cross-border movement of terrorists.

The discussions also underscored the importance of regional and multilateral cooperation in countering the evolving global threat of terrorism.

The participation of over 500 representatives in the Conference from 91 Member States, 14 regional organizations, 15 UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and 24 civil society organisations, demonstrates the global consensus on fighting the scourge of terrorism through joint and common actions.

Excellencies,

The Kuwait Declaration covers critical areas of concern which are crucial to addressing the challenge of counter-terrorism cooperation and border security and management in today's world:

- First, we have collectively acknowledged the need to strengthen national and regional border security mechanisms, particularly by adopting new technologies and implementing biometric systems to monitor and control the movement of terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters.
- Second, we have stressed the importance of real-time information sharing, utilizing platforms such as Passenger Name Record (PNR) data and Advance Passenger Information (API) systems to prevent terrorists from exploiting porous borders.
- Third, the conference underscored the importance of enhancing cooperation between international, regional, and sub-regional organizations, as well as civil society. Only through such partnerships can we ensure a coordinated, comprehensive, and impactful response to the global terrorist threat.
- In all these efforts, we have affirmed that human rights and the principles of international law must remain at the center of our actions.

The Kuwait Declaration also commits us to upholding these standards, ensuring that our counter-terrorism strategies are both effective and aligned with the values of justice and dignity.

We are also mindful that the global threat landscape is constantly evolving, requiring us to continually adapt and refine our strategies. The growing use of new technologies, including social media platforms and encrypted communication tools, by terrorist organizations presents challenges that we must prioritize.

The conference has reaffirmed that modern counter-terrorism approaches must be multi-dimensional, integrating technology, intelligence sharing, and capacity-building to address the drivers of terrorism as emphasized in the Pact for the Future.

As we move beyond this conference, the Kuwait Declaration will serve as a broad framework for future border security and management actions.

We must take steps to translate the commitments made here into practical, actionable measures.

I would like to outline a few key areas of follow-up listed in the Kuwait Declaration.

“To ensure sustained progress in border security management and counter terrorism cooperation, we commit to the following:

1. To welcome the organization of a High-Level Border Security and Management Conference in June 2026 in New York, alongside a review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process.
2. To continue strengthening international and regional counter-terrorism support to affected countries in Africa, including through further capacity-building initiatives, and to consider the organization of future activities of the Dushanbe Process in the region.
3. To establish a group of border management experts from Member States, regional organizations, and international partners to share expertise and best practices within and across regions, promoting innovative solutions to meet border security challenges.
4. To engage the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Border Management with Member States’ border security experts to foster greater collaboration and technical assistance in addressing evolving threats.
5. To establish a repository of good practices on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact’s virtual platform, featuring successful border management experiences from the League of Arab States (LAS), Central Asia, Africa, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to facilitate global knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.
6. To promote regular capacity-building workshops and technical exchanges among border officials and law enforcement agencies, ensuring that emerging technologies and data-driven solutions are effectively integrated into border management strategies.”

You can collect a copy of the Kuwait Declaration from the Conference staff as you move out of the conference room.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

While we are concluding deliberations of this Conference, the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process has just been launched. We need to deliver on the outcomes we just adopted.

The progress made through the Dushanbe Process, including this Kuwait Phase, demonstrates that when we work together, we can deliver real and meaningful change in strengthening international cooperation and our border security and management systems.

As we move forward, let us continue to build on the momentum we collectively generated here in Kuwait with the support of the State of Kuwait.

Thank you very much!