



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM**

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

**Sixth Scientific and Practical Conference of the Regional Anti-Terrorist  
Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

**‘Combatting Terrorism - Cooperation Without Boundaries’**

**31 October 2018**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start with words of gratitude to the Government of Uzbekistan for hospitality. It has been a while since I last visited Tashkent, in 1977, and I must confess that the city has become even more beautiful.

I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Evgeny Sysoev, Executive Committee Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, for his kind invitation to me to address you today.

I would like to thank as well His Excellency Mr. Rashid Alimov, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, who is also my dearest friend.

I bring you the warm greetings of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, who has made countering terrorism one of his top priorities.

Dear Colleagues,

The key security threats of the twenty-first century are all not constrained by national boundaries - not only terrorism, but also climate change, nuclear proliferation, conflict, poverty and disease. But terrorism is particularly dangerous as it confronts modern civilization and leads to degradation of human morality and identity.

The threat from terrorism is increasingly complex and transnational. No country represented here today is immune from the threat. No country has all the answers on how to counter it.

The military defeat of Da’esh in Iraq and Syria last year means foreign terrorist fighters, often with their families, are on the move, returning home or relocating to old and new theatres of conflict.

While some may be disenchanted and ready to renounce violence, others are passing on expertise from the battlefield, recruiting new followers and planning and carrying out attacks.

Da'esh is still trying to expand its presence in Afghanistan and the terrorist threat is perceived to be growing in neighbouring Central Asian states.

Terrorism transcends virtual as well as physical boundaries.

Today, the frontline against terrorism is increasingly in cyberspace - on Facebook, VKontakte, YouTube, Twitter and many other smaller digital platforms.

Terrorists are exploiting social media, encrypted communications and the dark web to spread propaganda, radicalize new followers and coordinate attacks.

The transnational nature of terrorist groups such as Da'esh, Al-Qaida, Jabhat al-Nusra, the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement and others means we need multilateral cooperation more than ever before to address this challenge.

This cooperation must transcend national boundaries and be based on mutual trust.

In June, the General Assembly reviewed the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy for the sixth time since 2006.

It adopted a consensus resolution, which sets a clear direction for the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations and Member States over the next two years.

The resolution calls upon Member States, the United Nations and international and regional organizations to step up their efforts to implement all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated and balanced manner.

These pillars address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; measures to prevent and combat terrorism; building the counter-terrorism capacities of states; and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism.

New problems require new solutions, however, what has not changed is the fact that we will only defeat terrorism if we work together.

That is why the United Nations Secretary-General convened the first-ever High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States in New York at the end of June.

Over 1,000 participants from 150 Member States, 51 civil society organizations and 31 international and regional organizations came together to discuss practical counter-terrorism issues.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure and the Member States here today made excellent and thought-provoking statements.

As I know, the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is leading the way in facilitating the exchange of intelligence, implementing joint investigations and carrying out anti-terrorism exercises of Member States.

The Measures on Key Areas of Cooperation adopted by the RATS Council allow Member States to work together to identify, detain, prosecute and extradite citizens who are suspected of committing terrorist acts.

These commendable efforts are supported by the Integrated Investigative Registry, a database of over 3,000 confirmed or suspected terrorists.

But there is more that can be done to expand similar networks around the world and ensure that information is shared in a consistent, timely and secure way.

The United Nations is fully committed to support Member States and regional organizations to make this happen. Here are some examples.

First. The United Nations Secretary-General has called for the establishment of a Network of Counter-Terrorism Coordinators to share information, expertise and best practices.

We will soon consult Member States once again on the ideas to add value to existing mechanisms. I hope we can count on your support and valuable input. We plan to launch the Network in 2019.

Second. United Nations Security Council resolution 2396, which was adopted last December, called on Member States to notify other countries of the travel, arrival, deportation or detention of individuals they believe to be terrorists.

We must prioritize the implementation of this resolution and ensure that countries most affected by terrorism have the capacities and resources to do so.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has recently launched, with the support of the Dutch Government, a new global project to support Member States to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute terrorist offences using Advance Passenger Information and Passenger Name Record data (API/PNR). This is a landmark project and I encourage SCO countries to benefit from it.

Third. UNOCT convenes trainings of Member States on good practices in border security and management, such as the week-long course held in Ashgabat earlier this month.

I am very grateful to the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their financial support.

Dear Colleagues,

Regional cooperation across national boundaries is essential to counter the evolving threat of terrorism.

I am very grateful for the contribution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to help deliver the first two phases of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. I look forward to your continued support as we now deliver the third phase.

The Joint Plan of Action, the first regional initiative of its kind, has become an example to other regions about what can be achieved with collective action, leadership and political will.

We are also taking concrete steps to strengthen the cooperation between my Office and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

I look forward to signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding soon.

My Office will also be collaborating with several Member States and regional organizations to deliver regional conferences on key thematic issues before the next United Nations High-level Conference in 2020. We are ready as well to discuss a possibility to organize such a conference in collaboration with RATS SCO.

I wish you all a productive conference!

Thank you for your attention.