The UN Head of Counter-Terrorism launches the “Dushanbe process on Countering Terrorism and its Financing in Central Asia”, welcoming the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration

Dushanbe (Tajikistan), 17 May 2019 - Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism welcomed the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration at the conclusion of the High-Level Conference on “Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime”, which took place on 16-17 May 2019 and was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). This is the first of a series of regional conferences that will be organized in 2019 and 2020 as a follow-up to the UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States convened by the United Nations Secretary-General, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, and organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) in June 2018.

“The Dushanbe Declaration will serve as a key blueprint to target our efforts on specific deliverables that would help countries of the region make a difference in the struggle against terrorism and its financing” Mr. Voronkov said.

The Under-Secretary-General also launched the "Counter-Terrorism Dushanbe process on Countering Terrorism and its Financing in Central Asia" that will institutionalize dialogue among countries in the Central Asian region and support the implementation of the Dushanbe Declaration.

“Terrorists are increasingly adept at utilizing new technologies to raise funds and transfer money across borders” the Under-Secretary-General stated. “The nexus between organized crime and terrorist financing is a growing concern for many countries, especially in the Central Asian region, which faces the scourge of organized criminal activities and drug trafficking on a regular basis. Tajikistan and other States of Central Asia and beyond have first-hand knowledge of this subject. They have accumulated significant experience of fighting this scourge. One of our purposes today is to share that experience,” he added at the opening of the conference with the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon.

On the sidelines of the high-level conference, Mr. Voronkov was received by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Emomali Rahmon, and thanked him for his very strong support and
the idea of the Conference. They discussed the cooperation between UNOCT and Tajikistan as well as support to regional efforts.

Mr. Voronkov also met with other high-level Tajik officials, including the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Sirodjiddin Muhriddin and the Minister of Interior H.E. Colonel General of Militia Rakhimzoda Ramazon Hamro.

On the margins of the conference, Mr. Voronkov participated in a side-event organized by the United Nations Country Team in Tajikistan on “Preventing Illicit Financial Flows from Drugs and Crime for Regional Peace, Security and Sustainable Development”. He reiterated the readiness of the United Nations family to provide coordinated technical assistance on countering the financing of terrorism to Central Asian States through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact in accordance with the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the recent Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) on countering the financing of terrorism, which requested UNOCT to enhance the provision of specialized technical assistance to Member States and coordinate this among UN agencies.

In addition, the Under-Secretary-General held bilateral meetings with:

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan H.E. Salahuddin Rabbani,
The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan H.E. Abdulaziz Kamilov,
the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic H.E. Chingiz Aidarbekov,

The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus H.E. Andrei Dapkiunas,
The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation H.E. Oleg Syromolotov,
The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkmenistan H.E. Vepa Hajiev,
The Ambassador of the United States to Tajikistan H.E. John Mark Pommershein,
The Special Envoy for Afghanistan, Ambassador at Large of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan H.E. Stanislav Vassilenko,

The Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization H.E. Vladimir Norov,
the Deputy Secretary General for the European Union Common Security and Defense Policy and Crisis Response at the European External Service H.E. Pedro Serrano,
The Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre, Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat H.E. Marcel Pesco,
The Director of the Department on International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and Extremism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. Hossein Maleki.

Background

The Dushanbe conference was the first regional conference in a series of follow-up events to the first High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism that was convened in June 2018 in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres. The outcome of the Dushanbe conference will contribute to the second High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism planned for June 2020 in New York.
Central Asia is one of UNOCT’s geographical priorities. UNOCT supports the development and is actively involved in the implementation of Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism (CT) Strategy in Central Asia, in collaboration with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). Regional cooperation guided by the JPoA has enabled countries to enhance their cooperation on cross-border issues such as countering the financing of terrorism, enhancing border security, fostering dialogue with religious institutions and leaders, and highlighting the role of the media in addressing terrorism and violent extremism.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence through the Global Counter-Terrorism Compact, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States, through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT).