



UNOCT



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HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

International and Regional Border Security and
Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism
and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists

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PRESS RELEASE

HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE STRESSES THE KEY ROLE OF BORDERS SECURITY AND COOPERATION TO ADDRESS THE SCOURGE OF TERRORISM IN CENTRAL ASIA AND BEYOND

Dushanbe, 19 October 2022 – The International High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists” concluded today in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

This two-day conference was co-organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the European Union (EU), with the support of the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

At the closing session of the Conference, H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan introduced the Dushanbe Declaration and said “the current international Dushanbe Conference on countering terrorism and border security will certainly make a significant contribution to the process of capacity building and further promotion of mutually complementary initiatives within the framework of the "Dushanbe counter-terrorism process" on pressing and topical issues of ensuring international and regional security and strengthening peace.”

Presenting the Co-Chair’s Summary of the Conference, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Voronkov thanked the Government of Tajikistan for hosting

the conference. He commended the engagement of its over 700 participants that led to fruitful deliberations. “The outcomes of the Conference are relevant for all Member States around the world. We can all agree that this Conference theme underscored how critical border security and management cooperation is to effectively counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists,” he stated.

During the conference, participants discussed the border security challenges and needs of Central Asian States, identified current trends, threats and risks in border management, shared experiences, and outlined avenues for improvements, including how to strengthen the sharing of information and good practices on a range of critical counter-terrorism issues.

The conference stressed that developments in Afghanistan have heightened security concerns for countries in Central Asia and beyond. It underlined the need to remain vigilant to prevent the threat of terrorism and violent extremism from spreading around the world.

The conference therefore called for comprehensive, integrated and whole-of-society strategies and approaches to strengthen border security in the context of counter-terrorism, including through building regional and national capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters.

Participants further underlined the importance of leveraging regional and international cooperation to improve detection and prevent the cross-border flow of foreign terrorist fighters, based upon proven border security measures, mechanisms and policies that work and at the same time comply with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law.

Mr. Voronkov reiterated the commitment of the United Nations in collaboration with OSCE, UNRCCA and the EU, to supporting Central Asian States to strengthen their border control capacities and cross-border cooperation, including through the responsible use of new and emerging technologies, in close cooperation with other partners in the region.

This Conference was part of the “Dushanbe Process” launched in May 2018, when the first High-Level International Conference of the process on “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism” (Dushanbe, 3-4 May 2018) was jointly convened in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, UN entities, the OSCE and the EU. The UNOCT High-Level Conference of the process on “International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime” was convened on 16-17 May 2019 in Dushanbe.

Detailed information is available on the official website of the Conference
(www.dushanbectprocess.org).