



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**High-Level Briefing “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and Strengthening Regional
Security and Stability: Uzbekistan’s Perspective”**

4 December 2023, 1:15 p.m. New York

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations for organizing this High-Level Briefing and for inviting me to participate in this panel today.

This event reflects the strong cooperation and mutual commitment between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the United Nations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and promotion of peace and security at the international, regional, and national levels.

In June, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution on the eighth biennial review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS). I would like to thank the Government of Uzbekistan for the unwavering support that was crucial to the adoption of this important resolution, which renewed the global commitment to fight terrorism.

The resolution re-emphasized the strong interconnectedness between achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Sustainable development based on the principles of social justice, inclusion, and equal opportunities, as well as effective and accountable institutions, clearly contributes to the fight against terrorism and prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

In that regard, I would like to commend the efforts of the Republic of Uzbekistan in relation to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 and one of its targets related to strengthening of national institutions to prevent violence and combat crime and terrorism.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear friends,

Coordinated and multilateral responses are required to address the evolving threat of terrorism. Countering terrorism also yields more positive results when constructive collaboration exists between Member States, the United Nations, other international and regional organizations, and civil society.

I commend Uzbekistan and the other Central Asian Member States for serving as a leading example of regional cooperation and mutual support in the fight against terrorism.

Since 2011, Uzbekistan has been actively supporting regional counter-terrorism efforts through the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

In March 2022, UNOCT, together with the Government of Uzbekistan, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), adopted an updated Joint Plan of Action which was further enhanced through the joint roadmap signed in October 2022.

Uzbekistan is one of the first countries in Central Asia to repatriate its citizens from conflict zones. Since 2019, we have seen 531 Uzbek citizens repatriated. I would especially like to commend Uzbekistan's sensitive, nuanced approach towards women and children returnees in this process, and for demonstrating to all countries that the dignified and safe return of citizens from conflict zones is both possible and should be guaranteed.

Uzbekistan and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism have continuously made important strides in the field of counter-terrorism and the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Tomorrow, UNOCT will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Uzbekistan's Institute of Strategic and Regional Studies, which will further exemplify our shared commitment.

I welcome Uzbekistan's active participation in numerous projects and activities organized by my Office. These include capacity-building activities carried out by our regional JPoA project, the EU-UN initiative STRIVE Asia, the Global Programmes on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (PRR), Cybersecurity and New Technologies, and Countering the Financing of Terrorism, and many more.

I look forward to further strengthening our collaboration with the Republic of Uzbekistan to pursue a future of lasting peace and security.

Thank you.