

**Remarks at the 74th session of the General Assembly  
Sixth Committee  
Agenda Item 109: Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism  
Didar Temenov, Counsellor and Political Coordinator of  
the delegation of Kazakhstan  
(10 October 2019)**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We join others in congratulating you and the members of the Board on your election and wish you every success in stewardship of the work of the 6<sup>th</sup> committee during this session. You and members of your Bureau can count on our delegation's full cooperation throughout the work of the committee.

Kazakhstan aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of Saudi Arabia on behalf of the OIC.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Terrorism continues to pose a grave threat to international peace and security. Terrorist organizations and their affiliates continue to adapt their tactics and methods, including using modern means of communication, such as the Internet, to recruit, finance, plan and execute attacks against civilians. Foreign terrorist fighters are posing new threats and challenges to countries of their origin as well as third countries.

Preventing and combating international terrorism has been Kazakhstan's priority since its independence and, particularly, during our non-permanent membership of the Security Council in 2017-2018. My delegation is of the firm conviction that the fight against international terrorism demands a long-term comprehensive approach and cooperation at all levels with the active participation of all Member States, global and regional structures and civil society.

We are actively engaged in the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) in Central Asia, by not just addressing but also implementing all four pillars of the Strategy. The Third Phase of this JPoA was successfully launched with the support of UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA), UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), in May 2018 in Ashgabat.

Kazakhstan is proud to be the first donor to the third phase of the Joint Plan of Action for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

Our country put forward a proposal to adopt the Code of Conduct towards Achieving a World Free of Terrorism. This political declaration was officially launched on 28 September 2018 at a High-level Special Event, organized on the margins of the high-level General Debate of 73<sup>rd</sup> session of UNGA. We sincerely thank the 85 like-minded Member States that have signed Code of Conduct and coalesced together to honour their commitments to implement the GCTS, and other instruments. We hope that other countries, which have not done so yet, will also join the Code of Conduct during this 74<sup>th</sup> session.

The innovative element of the Code is that it clearly links terrorism with the threat to sustainable development and indicates that through the coordination of collective actions for the SDGs, it helps us to combat this global scourge. We propose to the international community to aspire to achieve a world free of terrorism by the UN's Centenary in 2045.

The Code calls upon all states to accede to the 19 UN sectoral conventions against terrorism, which Kazakhstan has already ratified.

As a follow up activity, on 28 and 29 June, Kazakhstan had co-organized with UNOCT in Tarrytown, New York, a retreat on: "Synergies among Developing Countries for Achieving a World Free of Terrorism and Agenda 2030" with participation of over 50 member States. The aim of this meeting was to discuss effective ways of collective collaboration to fight terrorism.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

On the national front too, we have made equally significant strides.

Kazakhstan is a party to all the major international conventions and instruments against terrorism.

CTED experts visited Astana in May 2016, and their recommendations for reinforcing further national counter terrorism measures are currently being implemented. In March 2018, Kazakhstan adopted the State Programme for Countering Religious Extremism and Terrorism in 2018-2022, which is fully aligned with the UN GCTS. Additionally, Kazakhstan will more than quadruple its budget to \$837 million in the next five years for this purpose. The focus is not only to eliminate religious extremism and terrorism but to introduce security sector reforms, together with improved legislative

and organizational frameworks for identifying and combating religious extremism and terrorism.

As part of our efforts to counter radicalism, extremism and hate, Kazakhstan initiated and has successfully convened six Congresses of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, together with political leaders and other organizations, in the capital of Kazakhstan. The Congress has become “a hallmark” of contemporary Kazakhstan, changing the paradigm of state development from the model of conflict and clash of civilizations, cultures and religions to a unique model of tolerance and harmony.

To support global measures, Kazakhstan is also making every effort to combat covert methods used by terrorists, such as the use of the Internet, its dark web and encryption. Our country is developing the its own national system to counter terrorism on the Internet, through its programme entitled, "Cyber Shield of Kazakhstan" and invites interested Member States and international and regional organizations to cooperate in this field.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Kazakhstan has had the unique experience of successfully bringing home safely from Syria a total 595 Kazakh citizens, including over 400 children (of which 31 are orphans). This innovative operation, called “Zhusan”, was possible only because of very close international cooperation which was executed in four phases from January to June 2019. Its objectives was to save the country’s citizens, who had been led to the crisis-hit country under false pretense and were thus entrapped in armed conflict. Those returning undergo a rehabilitation programme of reintegration back into society, and we already see positive results. Several women from the first batch have secured jobs and are currently working. Children are joined with their relatives and go to public schools. It is still a work in progress but is beginning to bear the fruit. Many of these women are our partners and assisting in awareness raising efforts to prevent further recruitment.

Today, Kazakhstan is one of the few countries in the world that carries out such humanitarian actions and ready to share its experience.

To conclude, Kazakhstan stands ready to intensify cooperation to counter terrorism in Central Asia and globally.