

Speech (10 minutes)

Speech of the representative of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center (CIS ATC), Dr. Pavel Mareev, at the 3rd Session “National practices in countering violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism” of the Second Open Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with the Global Research Network partners on “Recent Trends in Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism”.

UN HQ, NY

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Activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center in the prevention of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, in the territory of the Commonwealth of Independent States

(SLIDE 1)

Dear Mr. Chairman!
Ladies and gentlemen!

First of all, allow me to express my gratitude on behalf of the Head of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center (CIS ATC) for the invitation to take part in today's event.

The Center was established in 2000 and is a permanent body of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). The main task of the Center is to ensure coordination of cooperation between the competent authorities of the CIS Member States in the area of combating terrorism and other manifestations of extremism. (SLIDE 2)

In building our coordination activities, we proceed from the premise that an effective fight against terrorism and extremism is possible only through joint efforts of the UN Member States, international organizations and civil society institutions.

We support and develop cooperation with both regional and international organizations, and their specialized agencies. With many of them we have bilateral agreements on cooperation. Among our regular partners are the UN, OSCE, SCO, CSTO, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism (EAG).

(SLIDE 3)

Starting from 2012, experts of our Center participated in the assessment visits of CTED to the CIS countries aimed at monitoring and facilitating the implementation of Security Council resolutions. Information provided by the Center was also taken into account in final reports of CTED. This year, such a visit has already taken place to Tajikistan. At present, the representative of our Center is taking part in CTED assessment visit to Turkmenistan.

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The activities of our Center in counter-terrorism area have systematic character and are based on respect of the norms of international law, national legislations, the rights and freedoms of citizens.

Collective antiterrorist activities of the CIS Member States are carried out in accordance with a separate Program on Cooperation, which is being approved by the decision of the Council of Heads of States of the CIS every three years.

CIS ATC is one of the main developers of the above mentioned Program. The Program contains new innovative approaches related to countering the ideology of terrorism; ensuring information security; protecting critical facilities from terrorist acts. An increased attention is paid to the development of new techniques for joint investigative and other various antiterrorist operations.

While implementing the provisions of this Program, CIS ATC has focused its main attention on a number of the following areas, the implementation of which has already brought concrete positive results.

Firstly, the exchange of data and the use of common arrays of information in the search for terrorists.

(SLIDE 5)

The Specialized Databank of our Center receives from CIS Member States and anti-terrorist structures of international organizations up-to-date information about the individuals, involved into terrorism and included into the international search warrants; international terrorist and extremist organizations that are banned in the CIS countries; forms and methods of countering terrorism. The Databank also contains information of the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida UN Sanctions Committee on persons involved in the activities of Al-Qaeda, ISIL and the Taliban. The Center has set up and operates the INTERPOL's I-24/7 system since 2009.

CIS countries have a remote real time access to the Bank.

(SLIDE 6)

As a result of the processing and analysis of information provided by the Center, only for the years of 2016-2017 the possible locations of more than 500 fugitives wanted by CIS Member-states for committing terrorist crimes have been identified.

On the basis of the information provided by us, the activities of many of those individuals have already been suppressed.

(SLIDE 7)

Secondly, participation in the norm-setting activities. First of all, here we are talking about the drafting of the so called "model laws" in the field of combating terrorism. According to the experts' opinion, quite a number of those laws, are in fact more progressive than national laws and are used by the CIS countries as a model.

(SLIDE 8)

All model laws are adopted by the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly. Specialists of our Center serve as experts in this Assembly on ongoing basis.

Thirdly, joint training of specialists in counter-terrorism. Officials of our Center, based on their general vision of problems in the Commonwealth space, take an active part in training counter-terrorism specialists in specialized educational institutions of the CIS. In recent years hundreds of such specialists have been trained. We are moving along the path of developing common approaches and uniting efforts. At the same time expanding cooperation in this direction.

(SLIDE 9)

For example, in June and October of this year, we lectured in the OSCE Border Management Staff College in the capital of Tajikistan, Dushanbe.

(SLIDE 10)

In addition, during the 17 years of the Center's activities, under its coordinating role, 14 joint antiterrorist exercises were held within the CIS. The last one - in May-June of this year – "Dushanbe-Antiterror-2017" (SLIDE 11) with the participation of the competent authorities of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Russia. Traditionally, representatives of a number of international organizations also participated in the observer capacity in such exercises.

Fourthly, preventive work with certain categories of individuals, which are most prone to being influenced by the terrorist recruiters.

(SLIDE 12)

Among them:

- 1) young people, first of all, students of higher educational institutions;
- 2) labor migrants;

3) persons serving sentences in places of deprivation of liberty.

(SLIDE 13)

Many centuries ago, the great Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu wrote: "If you want to defeat the enemy, bring up his children."

While working with the youth, our representatives engage with students of the largest universities of the CIS, by means of conducting special classes and explaining exactly how recruiters drag students into terrorist and extremist organizations.

We also make publications targeted at young people and their teachers. Examples of such publications are in front of you. Here is the booklet "The Scary Story of DAESH" prepared by the CIS ATC in cooperation with the "Russian Peace Foundation" with the support from the Russian Council of Muftis (SLIDE 14). The booklet was distributed in a number of countries of the Commonwealth and beyond it. It was already published in Russian, Azerbaijani, Georgian languages. This booklet is unique due to its accessible language, bright illustrations and interesting text. All of that is what is needed to attract the attention of youth. (SLIDE 15) We also work out methodological recommendations for teachers, which are used today in a number of educational institutions of the CIS.

Since mid-2015, our Center has conducted 4 international conferences directly related to counter-terrorism activities with the youth. They were held in Belarus, Kyrgyzstan, Russia.

The materials of all the projects are published and can be used for educational purposes, training of teachers, law enforcement officers and civil society institutions.

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They are available on the website of the CIS ATC; information about the events is published in the OSCE CTN Newsletter.

2. While working with **the second** identified category of individuals, which are most prone to being influenced by the terrorist recruiters – that is **“labor migrants”** (some of whom, unfortunately, also form the base for recruitment to terrorist organizations) we can give the example of conducting the antiterrorist project of experts’ platforms, which are regularly held in CIS countries by the "Commonwealth of Eurasian Nations" and the Orenburg State university.

Here the main attention of experts is paid to organizing the religious life of migrant workers, the need for their adaptation into society and local Muslim structures. Representatives of 4 CIS Member States and the CIS ATC are participating in this project and it is open for cooperation with others.

(SLIDE 17)

The high level of interaction between the Spiritual Directorate of Muslims and representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church, police officers, CIS ATC, and their subsequent collaboration with universities in several regions of Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan have resulted in a project that has been going on for several years already. The project is dedicated to strengthening the interethnic and inter-confessional world and is called "Stop ISIL. Ural Against Terrorism”.

3. A separate line of our activities on this project - **is the rehabilitation work with persons currently serving or who served their sentences in the past in places of deprivation of liberty**. Thus, only this year, within this project, our specialists visited more than 20 places where sentences are served in order to engage in conversations and give lectures on antiterrorist topics.

(SLIDE 18)

From the experience of our regular partners working in this field, let me give you an example of the Kazakhstan’s Public Fund "Akniyet". It is involved into penitentiary prevention of

religious extremism. Selected areas of its work - rehabilitation activities with family of convicted people, and post-penitentiary practice.

All these projects demonstrate that the joint work of state bodies, theologians and civil society aimed at dissuading of convicted extremists brings positive results.

(SLIDE 19)

Ladies and gentlemen!

A particularly important aspect of our approaches to counter-terrorism is that the CIS Member States do actively support the leading role of the UN, the UN Security Council and the Counter-Terrorism Committee in this endeavour.

I would like to thank our partners in the United Nations for the positive evaluation of the activities that were given to the CIS ATC in the Global Survey of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) by Member States, published in January 2016. We hope that our participation will continue to contribute to the activities carried out by the CTC.

Thank you for your attention.