Joint open briefing for interested Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations on Central Asia

Counter-Terrorism Committee
1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees

Monday, 2 July 2018
3:00 p.m.

Session 2: Assisting Central Asian Member States to implement the relevant Security Council resolutions

Chair’s statement

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be here today and I would like to thank Ms. Michele Coninsx, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, and His Excellency Mr. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, for arranging this joint open
briefing, and inviting me and the experts of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team.

I extend my appreciation to the Heads and high-level representatives of the international and regional organizations for their availability and willingness to participate in this important event and to brief on their activities in Central Asia.

Within the framework of the mandates of the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Regimes, Central Asia remains a focus of attention. The threat emanating from ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida, the Taliban and their affiliates is constantly evolving and affects Central Asia.

The Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, which supports both the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees, reported that ISIL, Al-Qaida and their affiliates have sympathizers among the nationals of Central Asian countries. However, the main terrorist threat comes from abroad. In particular, increasing numbers of foreign terrorist fighters relocating from the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq to Afghanistan are perceived as a growing threat for the region, as well as ISIL’s increasing presence in
Afghanistan. This is a worrying trend which must be closely monitored.

Against this backdrop, myself, as well as the Monitoring Team maintain positive relations with the governments of Central Asian countries, as well as relevant regional organizations through contacts in New York and during field visits.

The Monitoring Team conducts regular assessment missions to the region. The experts have also carried out, together with the CTED, joint comprehensive and follow up visits to Central Asia. Upon recommendations made during these visits, the Monitoring Team, together with UNODC and other relevant UN bodies, launched a series of trainings for Central Asian officials on the implementation of the 1267 sanctions regime.

Effective working contacts have been established with the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. We
participate in each other’s events to share analysis and assessment on the threat of terrorism in Central Asia.

In November 2017, I and the Monitoring Team conducted a visit to Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to attend the Fifth International Scientific and Practical Conference on the “Fight against terrorism - cooperation without borders”, which was organized by the Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. At this meeting, we made presentations on the activities of the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees. This was a very informative meeting and I found especially useful the exchange of analysis on threats to security in the context of Afghanistan, best practices aimed at prevention of the use of the Internet for terrorist and extremist purposes, as well as discussions on how to further expand cooperation in countering the financing of terrorism.

Security in Central Asia was discussed during my visit to Afghanistan in October 2017, and in Moscow in May 2017 at the CSTO Conference on “Transnational challenges and threats
related to terrorist activities. Realizing the potential of international organizations in countering terrorism”.

Dear participants,

The global nature of the terrorist threat means that Member States must strengthen international cooperation and use all available instruments at their disposal to counter it. In this regard, the United Nations Security Council ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida sanctions regime is a valuable instrument in countering terrorism. I believe that this tool can continue to be effectively used in Central Asia to address challenges related to international terrorism.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that Kazakhstan received first country visit of the Monitoring Team in 2017. My capital had very useful talks with the Monitoring Team which facilitated a better understanding of the mandates of the 1267 and 1988 Sanctions Committees and the role of the Monitoring Team. Taking this opportunity, I call on the governments of Central Asian Member States to enhance their cooperation with the Monitoring Team.
Once again, I thank the organizers and look forward to strengthening the collaboration between the ISIL (Da’esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions and 1988 Committees, Central Asian States, regional organizations and UN partners to effectively counter terrorism in this region.

Thank you.