

**High-level Briefing to Member States on the United Nations
Office of Counter-Terrorism's Programmes and Projects in
Central Asia: Achievements and Way Forward**

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Statement of

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*Excellencies, distinguished participants,
Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov,
Special Representative Kaha Imnadze,*

It is my pleasure to address today's high-level briefing, co-organized jointly by the Office on Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (or CTED).

This is not the first briefing we co-organize in this format, and it testifies to a sound partnership between our three entities, which permanently develops.

Central Asia has faced numerous challenges in recent years with the nearby rise of terrorism and violent extremism posing a significant threat to the stability and security of the whole region.

Recognizing the complexity of the threat, CTED has been engaged in a constructive dialogue with the Governments of Central Asian States on their counter-terrorism efforts.

Acting on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, CTED conducts assessments of States' efforts to implement relevant Security Council resolutions and makes recommendations on how to strengthen such measures.

From 2009 to 2022, CTED conducted visits to all five Central Asian States.

Some were visited more than once.

CTED also plays an important role in facilitating the provision of technical assistance to build States' capacity to prevent and counter terrorism.

In this area, Central Asian Member States continue to benefit from the Joint Plan of Action to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Over the 10 years of the Plan of Action's existence, CTED has continued to ensure that the counter-terrorism technical assistance provided to Central Asian States under the Plan is fully aligned

with the recommendations of the Counter-Terrorism Committee's assessment visits.

In cooperation with our partners, CTED fulfils its role in regional workshops and national capacity-building consultations in Central Asian States on various aspects of counter-terrorism, including in the area of border management and law enforcement, preventing terrorists from acquiring small arms and light weapons, enhancing usage of biometric data, protecting critical infrastructure, and other areas.

CTED's work is also aimed at promoting the global dissemination of good practices.

In this context, I would like to commend Central Asian States for being among the first to react and demonstrate their leadership in the return of their citizens from conflict zones, especially women and children.

In doing so, the States of the region demonstrated a whole-of-society approach to the rehabilitation and reintegration of women and children.

Central Asian States have also taken innovative approaches to the management of violent extremist prisoners and the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

These practices have generated valuable experiences for other Member States which are facing similar challenges, including in the way women and young people can be involved in such efforts.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

As we continue our collective efforts, it is essential to underscore the importance of a holistic, human rights compliant, and gender-sensitive approach.

Promoting regional cooperation, support and solidarity with each other, our Central Asian partners are building resilient societies, addressing the multifaceted nature of the challenges we face.

Let me use this opportunity to thank all Member States and partner entities who generously support the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action and related initiatives in the region.

Today's meeting can provide a new impetus to our collective efforts to ensure a more secure and stable future for the people of Central Asia.

Thank you.