



**UNITED NATIONS  
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM  
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Welcoming remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov  
Under-Secretary-General  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism  
Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)**

**Launch of the UN/EU/US coordinated action on reintegration of children and women from conflict zones as well as the promotion of accountability for persons returned from conflict zones**

**27 May 2021**

**Tashkent, statement was delivered in Russian, pre-recorded**

Your Excellency Mussayev,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Dear colleagues!

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the launch of two new very important programmes: “Expert Advisor and Rehabilitation and Reintegration programme” and “EU-UN Support to the States in Central Asia for their citizens returned from conflict zones, primarily Syria and Iraq”.

I commend the Government of Uzbekistan for hosting this timely event.

Both programmes being launched here today were the result of hard work by 15 UN entities who came together for an ‘All-of-UN’ approach which we now call the “Global Framework,” and the critical need to support Member States, upon request, that have repatriated, or are committed to repatriating, their nationals from camps in north-eastern Syria and Iraq, including Al Hol.

We are grateful for the support of the donors: the United States and the European Union.

With the generous support of the US Department of State to my Office, this project is being launched to support the work of an Expert Advisor in Uzbekistan and a number of rehabilitation and reintegration activities.

With EU support, the protection and recovery component of the Global Framework, coordinated by UNICEF, is starting and we believe that very soon we will commence the security and accountability component coordinated by UNOCT.

I would like to reiterate the importance of ensuring a balanced approach across both security and accountability and protection and recovery imperatives which has been made possible through the generous support of the projects we are celebrating today.

The Central Asia region has always placed humanity first and foremost as a moral imperative. Central Asian countries have always accepted people and adopted them as their own during times of upheaval. The will to step forward and take responsibility for national seeking to return from Syria and Iraq is a prime example of caring for the most vulnerable.

I am therefore proud of the example that Central Asian countries have set on this issue. When I meet with other Member States I hold up the actions of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan as examples for them to follow and learn from.

It is important that rehabilitation and reintegration based on human rights approaches and best interests of children are organized upon return.

My Office, as the lead entity for counter-terrorism coordination in the United Nations system, has prioritized the plight of the children and women in the camps and detention facilities in Iraq and Syria. In partnership with our humanitarian and human rights partners we work on ensuring that a comprehensive and coherent response is provided.

Central Asian Member States that have repatriated their citizens have demonstrated that where there is will, there is a way. I am sure that these two new programmes launched today will support this process.

Thank you.