



PRESS RELEASE

UN OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM JOINS UNITED NATIONS PARTNERS, USAID, AND TURKMENISTAN IN HOLDING FIRST MODEL UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN ASHGABAT

Ashgabat (Turkmenistan), 11 November - The first ever Turkmenistan Ashgabat Model United Nations (TAMUN) Regional Conference concluded today. Jointly organized by the Government of Turkmenistan with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the United Nations Resident Coordinator Office in Turkmenistan (RCO), the Regional Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Central Asia (OHCHR) and the US Agency of International Development (USAID). “Safe Migration in Central Asia” program, the two- day TAMUN conference brought together 100 students from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan to participate in an educational simulation of the work of the United Nations.

Participants simulated the work and structure of the following UN committees and commissions: (i) United Nations Security Council to discuss the role of youth in preventing online extremism and propaganda, (ii) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) session on Trafficking in persons and the use of technologies, (iii) UN Committee on Civil and Political Rights (UNCCPR), (iv) Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) session on prevention of drug use in Central Asia. Moreover, participants also interacted with international experts from the UN entities and exchanged views on their experiences.

Youth organizations contributed significantly to the Conference’s preparation. Young experts from the Westminster International University in Tashkent (WIUT SU) introduced the concept of the MUN, including its rules and procedures. Leaders of the “Regional Network of Youth Organizations and Youth Champions of Change in Central Asia for drug free, healthy, safe and secure societies” also attended the event to facilitate a CND session on drug use prevention. Young SDG Ambassadors in Turkmenistan and alumni of UNRCCA Preventive Diplomacy Academy also contributed in playing a vital role in ensuring the event’s success.

The TAMUN conference was organized as part of the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration and provided a valuable opportunity for young people from Central Asia to gain insight into the work of the United Nations, to enhance their understanding of international affairs but also to cultivate critical thinking, diplomacy, and teamwork skills. It contributes to the ongoing efforts of UNOCT, UNODC, UNRCCA, RCO, OHCHR, USAID in Turkmenistan and Central Asia to engage youth in addressing global challenges and promoting peace and sustainable development.

The Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an extra-curricular activity in which students roleplay United Nations delegates of the Member States and simulate various UN committees. Organized together with high school or university students with subject matter expertise, Model UN conferences follow procedural rules adapted from actual UN rules and advance participants’ understanding of global challenges and the importance of the work of the United Nations.

TAMUN was launched in Turkmenistan in 2022 to support and complement the initiative of UNODC on the roll-out of education materials in Turkmenistan and other education activities implemented by UNOCT, UNRCCA, OHCHR, and USAID SMICA in cooperation with the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan.

For more information:

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