



**HIGH-LEVEL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
Regional Cooperation among Central Asian States within the
Framework of the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the
Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-
Terrorism Strategy**

4 March 2022, Tashkent

**Closing remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am honoured to help conclude this High-Level International Conference.

I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Abdulaziz Kamilov, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and His Excellency Mr. Viktor Makhmudov, Secretary of the National Security Council, for the generosity and hospitality afforded by the Government of Uzbekistan.

I also thank my esteemed colleagues: Ms. Natalia Gherman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, and Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, for having co-organized this event with my Office.

I am happy to acknowledge the participation of 250 representatives from Member States, regional and international organizations, United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, and civil society partners.

Your engagement throughout this event has greatly contributed to our successful deliberations.

Dear colleagues,

This Conference underscored the importance of multilateralism and regional solidarity in combating terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Over the past two days, we have listened to your needs, priorities and desired outcomes on a range of pertinent issues.

From your efforts to repatriate, rehabilitate and reintegrate your nationals stranded in camps in conflict zones, to addressing the impact of the evolving situation in Afghanistan.

We have taken stock of the results of the Joint Plan of Action in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, since its adoption in 2011.

We now understand better the challenges and emerging trends likely to be faced over the next decade and what can be done to address them.

Our deliberations pointed to the importance of prevention, stronger education, youth engagement and empowerment, and law enforcement based on the rule of law and human rights.

We identified pragmatic approaches to combat terrorist financing, strengthen border management and cyber security, and tackle the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

We exchanged views on how to intensify regional and international cooperation, leverage public-private partnerships, and step up interventions to prevent radicalization in prisons and recidivism of post-offenders.

My Office, together with our partners in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, will continue to support Central Asian States through tailored capacity-building and technical assistance across all four pillars of the Global Strategy.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The scourge of terrorism demands that we remain vigilant, proactively share information, and work cooperatively to anticipate and dismantle new and emerging threats.

I commend you for your unity, and your dedication to a comprehensive and multilateral response to this phenomenon – as symbolized by the updated Joint Plan of Action and the Tashkent Declaration, both of which are adopted as the outcome documents of this Conference.

I encourage you to develop, implement and monitor the impact of comprehensive and integrated national strategies to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism. These strategies should mainstream human rights and gender dimensions and promote private-public partnerships.

And I call upon regional and international partners to align their activities with the strategic objectives of the Joint Plan of Action.

I urge all Central Asian States to assist us to sufficiently resource the implementation of the updated Joint Plan of Action to realize greater, tangible impact over the next ten years.

I seize this opportunity to also draw your attention to the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter Terrorism, which includes targeted initiatives for the region.

In conclusion, let me reiterate the firm commitment of my Office to our strong and enduring partnership with Central Asian States.

I look forward to our continued cooperation to address the complex and evolving terrorism threats in the region.

Thank you.