



HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

— REPORT —

International and Regional
Border Security and
Management Cooperation
to Counter Terrorism and
Prevent the Movement
of Terrorists

DUSHANBE, TAJIKISTAN • 18-19 OCTOBER 2022



UNOCT



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“The United Nations was established – to quote from the Charter itself – “to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.”

Secure borders – managed in full respect of international refugee and human rights law – are essential to realizing this goal.

They are critical defences against diverse challenges, including illicit trafficking, organized crime, and the international movement of terrorists.”

Mr. Antonio Guterres

United Nations Secretary-General











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Abbreviations

API	Advanced Passenger Information
BSM	Border Security Management
BOMCA	EU funded project on “Border Management Program in Central Asia”
CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear weapons
CICA	Collective Security Treaty Organization. Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CIS ATC	Anti-Terrorist Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States
CSOs	Civil society organizations
CSTO	Collective Security Treaty Organization
CTC	Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee
EU	European Union
FTFs	Foreign terrorist fighters
GCTS	United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
JPoA	Joint Plan of Action on implementation of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia
LEICA	EU funded project on “Law Enforcement in Central Asia”
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PNR	Passenger Name Record
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organization
SCO RATS	Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization
UAVs	Unmanned aerial vehicles
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNOCT	United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNRCCA	United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia
WCO	World Customs Organization

“ We need to understand that the constructive cooperation of the international community is the only way to effective counteraction in order to eliminate the issue of terrorism.

Ensuring reliable border security is essential to prevent the threat of terrorists and extremists from penetrating land, air and sea borders.

It should be emphasized that an effective fight against modern destructive phenomena requires the adoption of collective measures.”

His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon

President of the Republic of Tajikistan

Executive Summary

The International High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists” was jointly co-organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), and the European Union (EU) with support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Qatar. The Conference was held at the Kokhi Somon Conference Center in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 18-19 October 2022.

This Conference was the third event within the “Dushanbe Process” launched in May 2018, when the first High-Level International Conference of the process on “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism” (Dushanbe, 3-4 May 2018) was jointly convened in partnership with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, UN entities, the OSCE and the EU. The High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime” was convened on 16-17 May 2019 in Dushanbe in continuation of “Dushanbe Process”.

The October 2022 event was held in person and brought together over 900 representatives, including representatives from 59 Member States, 12 United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities, 18 international and regional organizations, and 30 non-governmental organizations. On the margins of the Conference, complementary side events were organized by UNOCT, OSCE, EU, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

Conference participants underlined the importance of sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation to improve border and customs controls in order to prevent and detect the movement

of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and explosives, nuclear, chemical, biological or radiological weapons and materials, and to take measures on border security and management, criminal justice, and information sharing in accordance with international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law.

The event also highlighted the need for comprehensive, integrated, and whole-of-society approaches to border security with full respect for human rights and the rule of law, as well as stronger collaboration to prevent terrorists from benefiting from transnational organized crime. Conference participants underlined the need for the international community to remain vigilant given the heightened security concerns caused by developments in Afghanistan. They also emphasized the importance of the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia, launched by UNOCT and UNRCCA in June 2022.

The representatives of four Central Asian countries underscored the need to further strengthen the work of United Nations entities and other international and regional partners in the region as well as enhance international and regional cooperation, including the sharing of good practices and lessons learned to prevent and strengthen regional border security.

The Conference outcomes included the presentation by USG Voronkov of the Chairman's summary of conclusions reflecting Conference deliberations over the two days and the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists.

“ Border security and cooperation is an essential part of the international counter-terrorism legal framework. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related Security Council resolutions call upon Member States to step up national efforts, as well as bilateral, subregional, regional, and international cooperation, to improve border and customs controls to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists”.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism

Summary of the Opening Plenary Session

“No State can tackle threats like transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, terrorism or drug-trafficking alone. Greater cooperation both at regional and international levels is imperative.”

H.E. Helga Maria Schmid

OSCE Secretary-General

“To fight terrorism, a strong multilateral framework – with the United Nations at its core – remains something essential for all of us. The European Union will share its experience and its approach as co-chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum.”

H.E. Josep Borrell Fontelles

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs / Vice President of the European Commission

Mr. Emomali Rahmon

President of the Republic of Tajikistan, noted that the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan through its *National Strategy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism for 2016-2020* has improved the means for preventing extremism by strengthening the role of education and civil society. This created a favorable environment for the adoption of a new strategy for 2021-2025 through a special Secretariat for its implementation as well as a platform for cooperation between public institutions and the international and civil society organizations. President Rahmon informed that the Republic of Tajikistan had successfully managed the return of over 400 of its citizens, mainly women and children, from the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq. He recalled that as early as 2010, Tajikistan had adopted the National Border Management Strategy and Action Plan on Border Protection System Reform to 2025 with the support of international partners. He also reminded about the operationalization of over 175 facilities at the Tajikistan border with Afghanistan aimed at creating a “security belt” to mitigate the terrorist threat.

President Rahmon underlined the importance of defining terrorism and extremism to apply unified approaches to combating them. He also noted that extremist and terrorist organizations and groups were extensively using advanced information technologies in the pursuit of their goals, and this issue should be a matter for the serious attention of the experts. Finally, President Rahmon recalled that an effective fight against terrorism requires taking collective measures and, in this regard, he thanked international organizations and donors for their support and cooperation.

Mr. António Guterres

Secretary-General of the United Nations, in his video message, commended the promotion of international cooperation in preventing and countering terrorism through the “Dushanbe Process” and underlined that secure borders in full respect of international refugee and human rights law are essential to counter illicit trafficking, organized crime, and the international movement of terrorists. Mr. Guterres also highlighted the importance of collectively tackling root causes and grievances conducive to radicalization, and reiterated the United Nations’ commitment to strengthening peace, sustainable development and human rights in Central Asia and beyond.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), recalled the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan and the growing global geopolitical challenges and divides, noting that the Dushanbe Conference is a testimony to the necessity of sustained multilateral cooperation in the collective fight against terrorism. The Under-Secretary-General commended the governments of Central Asia for their leadership and collaborative work with the United Nations, as well as with regional and international partners in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. Mr. Voronkov underlined that the Conference, which is the first joint high-level event on border security, is a significant milestone in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia as well as a manifestation of the importance of regional cooperation. The Under-Secretary-General recalled UNOCT's flagship programmes intended to provide support to Member States on *Border Security Management and on Countering Terrorist Travel*. Mr. Voronkov also recalled the importance of implementation of the seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) adopted in June 2021, which urged Member States to enhance international cooperation among law enforcement organizations.

The Under-Secretary-General also underlined the need for counter-terrorism measures to be in full compliance with the rule of law and international law, emphasizing the devastating impact of the misuse of counter-terrorism measures. He stressed the need to strengthen prevention efforts by addressing the conditions conducive to terrorism and highlighted the plight of the thousands of children and women associated with Da'esh who remain stranded in camps and detention facilities in North-East Syria and Iraq who need to be repatriated to their countries of nationality. In this regard, he urged Member States to continue to strengthen their repatriation efforts and to ensure accountability for terrorist offences while providing child protection as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

Mr. Mukhtar Tleuberdi

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, underlined the importance of combating cross-border movement of terrorists, the spread of radical ideology, organized crime, illegal migration, cybercrime, drug trafficking and arms smuggling. He noted that the developments in Afghanistan require close coordination within Central Asia and beyond, noting that the countries of the region had created solid cross-border cooperation through bilateral and multilateral formats such as regional organizations and forums. Mr. Tileuberdi recalled that the Republic of Kazakhstan has ratified all 19 UN documents related to counter-

terrorism and announced that the 6th Summit of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) held in Astana on 12-13 October 2022 launched the process of transforming CICA into a full-fledged international organization by unanimous decision of all Member States. The Conference also approved the CICA Action Plan for the implementation of the GCTS.

He recalled that the Republic of Kazakhstan was the first donor to the Joint Plan of Action on implementation of GCTS in Central Asia (JPoA) and in this regard noted the creation of the Financial Monitoring Agency as well as the improvement of the legislation on combating the legalization of proceeds from crime and the financing of terrorism in recent years. Mr. Tileuberdi also briefed on his country's penitentiary system reform to prevent radicalization as well as on the humanitarian operations "Zhusan" and "Rusafa" within the framework of which over 620 citizens, mostly women and children returned to their homeland from conflict zones in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq. Finally, he underlined the readiness of the Republic of Kazakhstan to further expand cooperation with the UN, OSCE, EU and Central Asian countries on counter-terrorism.

Mr. Vladimir Norov

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan, recalled that all five countries of Central Asia adopted the JPoA in 2011, which allowed for a strengthening of regional consensus on common principles and approaches in the fight against terrorism while creating effective mechanisms for bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Mr. Norov also noted that Central Asian countries had established national counter-terrorism systems and action plans in full compliance with United Nations recommendations, which facilitated more efficient information sharing as well as more effective regional security and sustainable development. He recalled that the Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States held on 21 July 2022 in Kyrgyzstan led to the adoption of the historic Treaty on Friendship, Good-Neighborliness and Cooperation for the Development of Central Asia in the XXI century and reminded of the various General Assembly resolutions focused on Central Asia.

Mr. Norov recalled the International Conference on Afghanistan held in July 2022 which underlined the interest of the international community in developing coordinated approaches towards the country and recalled the recent initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan in establishing a High-Level International Negotiating Group on Afghanistan which could serve as a platform for mediation between the interim government and the international

community. Mr. Norov also proposed the establishment of a Special Fund for humanitarian support to Afghanistan in the city of Termez as well as the construction of trans-regional infrastructure projects. In addition, he transmitted the proposals of the Uzbek President from the Tashkent Conference in March 2022, including the creation of a unified electronic network on cyberterrorism in Central Asia and a Regional Expert Council. He also put forward four related proposals for consideration: further successful implementation of the GCTS; countering the use of digital technologies for terrorist purposes; rehabilitation and reintegration; effective youth policy; and the promotion of the principles of tolerance, mutual respect, interreligious and intercultural dialogue. Finally, Mr. Norov proposed the holding of a High-Level Conference on “Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance” in 2023 under the auspices of the United Nations.

Mr. Vepa Hajiyev

Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan recalled that Central Asia had passed the mark of the 10-year implementation of Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the region, which was commemorated by the adoption of the Updated JPoA in March 2022 in Tashkent. In this regard he underlined his country’s full commitment to the implementation of the Strategy. Mr. Hayijev stressed the need to prioritize preventive measures, while ensuring the geographical isolation of all manifestations of terrorist activity, guaranteed suppression of attempts by the movement of criminal elements across State borders, localization and deprivation of mobility of both physical and virtual extremist assets through coordinated border management, customs and migration control. To achieve the objectives, he stressed the importance of effective, full-fledged interaction between national, regional and international partners and entities. He reminded of Turkmenistan’s proposal for the creation of a UNOCT Programme Office in Central Asia at the 77th session of the UN General Assembly and expressed hope for the support of the international community for the initiative. He also called for further strengthening of existing platforms for dialogue, such as the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the Annual Counter-Terrorism Week. In this regard, Mr. Hayijev also reiterated the need to expand the work of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact for the exchange of digital data between Member States. Furthermore, at the subregional level, he recalled the latest successful meeting of Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Central Asian countries in Dushanbe in December 2021 and announced that the next consultations in coordination with the UNRCCA are planned for Ashgabat in December 2022 jointly with the meeting of the heads of the Institutes for Strategic Studies.

Dr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation for Settlement of Disputes of the State of Qatar, commended the Dushanbe process, which represents a successful model for coordinating counter-terrorism efforts at the international and regional levels, which is why the State of Qatar supported the convening of the previous conferences in 2018 and 2019. Mr. Al-Qahtani stressed the importance of border security and management and international and regional cooperation in accordance with international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law, in line with the fourth pillar of the GCTS to counter transnational dimensions of terrorist activities. He also warned of the dangers of corruption within border agencies which undermines efforts to counter cross-border organized crime and the flow of FTFs. Mr. Al-Qahtani noted the important role which governments, international and regional organizations and civil society play in assisting to achieve border security through cooperation, capacity building and exchange of information and best practices which is also the main message of the 7th review of the GCTS. Furthermore, he informed that the State of Qatar had updated its national legislation and regulations, enhanced capacities, and undertaken extensive action in the field of border security and management, as well as aviation security and maritime security, aimed at achieving more effective integration and operational coordination between relevant national agencies, and improving cooperation with relevant regional and international agencies, including the significant use of INTERPOL's resources. This cooperation has been intensified ahead of the upcoming World Cup in November 2022. Finally, Mr. Al-Qahtani recalled that the report of the Security Council Counterterrorism Committee in its visit to the State of Qatar in February 2020 had recognized Qatar's success and technical expertise in the integration of law enforcement and border management technology.

H.E. Helga Maria Schmid

Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), emphasized the importance of open, but secure borders, to facilitate trade, movement of people and services, while stemming all forms of current and emerging transnational threats. She called for greater cooperation at regional and international levels, which is facilitated by the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, creating networks, improving capacity to address challenges, and helping build trust across borders. Ms. Schmid reminded of the close cooperation with the Republic of Tajikistan to mitigate the challenges stemming from instability in Afghanistan and noted that the OSCE is strengthening cooperation throughout Central Asia via

its *Framework for Action in Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region* which focuses on the protection of vulnerable targets and many other relevant areas. She stressed the importance of prevention and addressing root causes of terrorism and violent extremism, which can be achieved by including civil society and grassroots organizations, including those led by women and youth, as well as local communities as key partners for more effective strategies and policies. In addition, Ms. Schmid emphasized that respect for, and the promotion of human rights and the rule of law, are essential parts of an effective response against terrorism. Finally, she recalled the signing of the updated UNOCT-OSCE Biennial Action plan in September 2022, which will further enhance cooperation between the two entities.

Ms. Alena Kupchyna

OSCE Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, recalled that Central Asia is one of the priority regions of the OSCE, and highlighted the unique expertise of the OSCE and its field missions to promote peace, stability and co-operation. She presented the annually organized Central Asian Border Management Initiative (CABMI), which she noted in 2022 focuses on the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and explosives, as well as transnational terrorism and organized crime. Ms. Kupchyna stated that enhanced regional cooperation between border security and management agencies improves capacities to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of FTFs while building trust, resilience and preparedness. In this regard, she noted that one of the OSCE's priorities is the exchange of good practices and guidelines related to the repatriation, rehabilitation, and reintegration of FTFs and their family members, while promoting gender- and age-sensitive perspectives. Finally, Ms. Kupchyna informed that since 2017, the OSCE has been training officials from Central Asia on countering the financing of terrorism through a comprehensive training programme implemented jointly with UNODC, leading to positive changes such as improved inter-agency cooperation, enhanced skills and capabilities, and the set-up of information sharing mechanisms between the public and private sector.

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs / Vice President of the European Commission, called for international and regional cooperation, including comprehensive and integrated border management for preventing and countering terrorism and other cross-border criminal activities. Mr. Borrell Fontelles recalled the "Border Management Programme for Central

Asia” and the “Law Enforcement in Central Asia” programmes carried out by the EU which are key priorities of the Strategy on Central Asia. Mr. Borrel Fontelles called on all parties to reach a sustainable solution by peaceful and diplomatic means to respond to recent violent border clashes in Central Asia and offered the EU’s support for confidence-building measures which would restore good neighbourly relations.

Ms. Terhi Hakala

European Union Special Representative for Central Asia, underlined the importance of multilateral engagement on security, and noted that the aim of the EU is to ensure coordination with third countries and international organizations in addressing global and regional threats. She commended the co-organization of the Dushanbe Conference, which sets an example of cooperation in addressing global, trans-regional, and emerging threats in line with agreed goals and principles set out in the GCTS, the EU Security Union Strategy and the EU Central Asia Strategy, the latter of which she noted promotes resilience, prosperity and regional cooperation. Ms. Hakala reiterated the EU’s strong commitment to a “whole of society” approach alongside the UN and the OSCE in fighting terrorism and in delivering integrated and sustainable support. In addition, she offered support to Central Asian partners through policy dialogue and development assistance programmes. Ms. Hakala noted with concern the developments in Afghanistan, such as the unwillingness of the Taliban to take action against safe havens and the ability of IS-K to persist, which she said required timely international and regional cooperation, in which Central Asian partners play a key role. She noted that the developments of the past decade in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan had shaped a global debate about the relocation of FTFs and their international travels, underlining that emerging challenges have no borders and require attention. In this regard, Ms. Hakala noted that despite the territorial defeat of Da’esh in Syria and Iraq and the relative decrease of terrorist attacks, violent extremism embraced many forms of ideological manifestations employing innovative techniques of recruitment and attacks with larger consequences. She underlined that common actions must be compliant with human rights law, humanitarian law and refugee law which is at the heart of the EU’s approach.

Mr. Waleed Abdulrahman Al-Reshaidan

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Tajikistan, stated that the international framework is the best means of eradicating terrorism and its financing, as was shown by the success of the international coalition against ISIS. Mr. Al-Reshaidan noted that the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the countries most targeted by terrorism, recalling national efforts in international and regional fora as well as the legislative, judicial, and executive levels in countering terrorism. He emphasized the determination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the fight against terrorism and its financing, as well as its commitment to fighting extremism, the transfer of FTFs to conflict zones, joining terrorist groups as well as individuals participating in the planning and carrying out terrorist acts as well as sheltering terrorists within the framework of national regulations, international law and Security Council resolutions. Finally, Mr. Al-Reshaidan underlined that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would support joint and effective international action in the fight against terrorism and its financing in all countries of the world.

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), called on vigilance against the risks of illicit cross-border movement following the developments in Afghanistan, as terrorist groups will seek to exploit every gap, with significant consequences for the region and beyond. Ms. Waly commended the Republic of Tajikistan on the political will to develop a joint regional response to terrorism and related crimes. She reiterated that UNODC is working with the Central Asian countries through the recently launched Programme for Central Asia 2022-2025, the Regional Programme for Afghanistan and Neighbouring Countries, and other global initiatives and recalled that UNODC launched the implementation of a multiyear programme to enhance border management in Central Asia. Ms. Waly also informed that UNODC is assisting countries in the region to counter violent extremism, manage foreign terrorist fighter prisoners, address linkages between violent extremism and mental health, and help children returning from conflict zones.

Mr. Masood Karimipour

Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch within UNODC, stated that Central Asia is a very important region as it is on the forefront of confronting security challenges due to its proximity to political instability, conflict, terrorist activity, illicit drugs and arms trafficking, vulnerability to terrorist propaganda and recruitment, and risks associated with corruption and financing of terrorism, including the widespread flow of alternative money remittances. Mr. Karimipour noted with concern that the threat posed by FTFs continues to put pressure on Central Asia and the wider international community to strengthen border security and prevent the travel of FTFs. He further noted that effective border security should be an integral part of any comprehensive and

integrated national counter-terrorism strategy, which requires cooperation between relevant international and regional organizations. In this regard, he alluded to the positive impact of the JPoA. Finally, Mr. Karimipour announced that UNODC has recently adopted a new Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Terrorism (2022-2027). This programme supports Member States to take a preventive, inclusive and people centered approach to developing and implementing effective and accountable legal, crime prevention and criminal justice measures to prevent terrorism, including through better border control, in compliance with international human rights.

Ms. Natalia Gherman

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of UNRCCA, underlined that the “Dushanbe Process” remains an important platform for Central Asia and the wider region. Ms. Gherman recalled that the updated JPoA was developed with the support of UNRCCA and UNOCT, mirroring the four pillars of the GCTS and including global and regional changes such as the developments in Afghanistan, the consequences of the global pandemic, expanding cyber space, the phenomena of FTFs, and the growing importance of integrated border management. She also noted the importance of border security within the updated JPoA through information exchange, intelligence assessment, and engagement with border communities. Ms. Gherman announced the launch of the establishment of an early warning mechanism on the impact of the situation in Afghanistan on Central Asia with the support of UNRCCA and UNOCT. She commended the Central Asian States for their significant progress in the return of FTFs and their family members, noting that they could serve as an example to countries facing similar challenges. Finally, Ms. Gherman stated that border security is closely linked to political will, trust building and the prevention of radicalization.

“It is in our collective interest and due to the nature of international borders, border security necessitates international cooperation, capacity building and more importantly exchange of information and best practices.”

Dr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani

Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation for Settlement of Disputes of the State of Qatar

Heads of Delegation Session

Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, noted that the 2022 Dushanbe Conference is the third milestone in a series of high-level events within the “Dushanbe Process” launched by the United Nations in 2018 when the first conference on counter-terrorism and PVE was hosted by the Government of Tajikistan. Mr. Muhridin expressed concern that terrorism and extremism, drug and arms trafficking, cybercrime and other forms of organized crime continue to pose threats to international peace and security. In this regard, he stated that the primary objective of the conference is to promote cooperation on implementation of several key Security Council resolutions dealing with border security. Mr. Muhridin recalled that the President of the Republic of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon has called for uniting their efforts of the global community to effectively address security challenges at international and regional levels by developing a united position on extremism and violent extremism. In this regard, he underlined that the Dushanbe process is a solid platform for exchange of best practices in Central Asia and beyond which can contribute to ensuring international and regional peace and stability.

Mr. Zhang Ming

Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), underlined the relevance of the topic of the Dushanbe Conference which he said requires the attention of the international community, especially in the current context. Mr. Ming called for unity in the fight against terrorism, extremism and radicalization, the drug trade, and small arms and light weapons (SALW) trade. He emphasized the importance of the security of Central Asia for the broader region as well as on a global scale. Mr. Ming expressed the hope for Afghanistan to become a State with an inclusive government and free of terrorism. Finally, he expressed the SCO’s readiness to broaden its cooperation with other States and international organizations based on mutual interests.

Mr. Du Hangwei

Deputy Minister of Public Security of the People's Republic of China, recalled the important progress made in international counter-terrorism cooperation with the active coordination of the United Nations and the strong support of the international community. Mr. Hangwei expressed concern that in the context of the COVID-19 epidemic, countries have suffered economic difficulties which endangered people's livelihood and intensified social conflicts, allowing terrorist forces to spread and cause chaos. He noted that terrorist organizations use the Internet to carry out activities such as collusion, recruitment, financing, planning and command, inciting anti-government sentiment and armed attacks, as well as even plotting to launch biochemical attacks with the COVID-19 as a weapon, causing huge actual and potential harm. He recalled that the People's Republic of China has always been committed to addressing both the symptoms and root causes of terrorism and violent extremism, resolutely cracked down on terrorism in all forms, and supported countries in Central Asia and Africa to strengthen their counter-terrorism capacity. Mr. Hangwei announced that President of the People's Republic of China Xi Jinping has put forward global security initiatives based on respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; abiding by the purposes and principles of the UN Charter; paying attention to the reasonable security concerns of all countries and peacefully resolving differences and disputes between countries through dialogue and consultation which has been widely supported by countries in Central Asia and beyond.

Mr. Praveen Vashista

Additional Secretary of the Counter Terrorism & Counter Radicalization Division within the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of India, recalled that his country is a party to all resolutions related to countering terrorism and recalled the planned Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes to be held in Mumbai and New Delhi, on 28-29 October 2022. Mr. Vashista also recalled that the "No Money for Terror" Ministerial conference would be held in New Delhi on November 18-19. He expressed concern on the misuse of social media and cyber space by terrorist groups for radicalization, which is exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 and represents a serious challenge requiring close cooperation. Mr. Vashista stressed that the individuals providing material to terrorist entities in Afghanistan must be held accountable, noting with concern the recent findings of the 1267 Sanction Committee's monitoring team of the increased terrorist presence in Afghanistan, which has the capacity to carry out attacks. He expressed support for the creation of a database dedicated to FTFs in order to detect their travel and share

best practices of immigration control to disrupt movement which would strengthen domestic legal instruments. Finally, Mr. Vashista transmitted the firm belief of the Republic of India that a terrorist threat in any part of the world is a threat to humanity.

Mr. Hamad Almashaan

Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs of the State of Kuwait, underlined that despite all the current global threats the world faces, the State of Kuwait remains committed to supporting all global and regional initiatives on countering terrorism and extremism. Mr. Almashaan recalled that terrorism is a threat to all nations of the world with the main goal being destabilize societies. He underlined that terrorism is not linked to any religion. He recalled that the State of Kuwait is committed to all the decisions and resolutions within the United Nations and other international organizations on countering terrorism, which is also manifested through its regional role within the Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS, its participation within the Defeat-ISIS Coalition Small Group, as well as co-leading the Coalition's Foreign Terrorist Fighters Working Group with the Republic of Türkiye and the Kingdom of Netherlands. Finally, Mr. Almashaan stressed that the current efforts of the international community are not enough to counter terrorism, noting the necessity to search for innovative solutions within a new plan.

Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi

First Chairman of the International Steering Board of Hedayah, recalled that terrorism is a threat to the world and called on the international community to join efforts in countering it, which he noted is especially important during periods of conflict in different regions. In this regard, Dr. Al Nuaimi urged the world to put political differences aside when it comes to countering terrorism and addressing its root cause which is extremism. He noted with concern that groups such as Da'esh, Boko Haram, and Al-Shabab use Islam as their ideology for their agenda as well as to engage in the effective use of social media to transmit extremist ideas. Dr. Al Nuaimi called on the international community to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in strengthening its border security due to the country's proximity to Afghanistan. He also recalled that terrorist groups operate across borders and continents, which requires not only information exchange but the concrete engagement of all nations in countering terrorist groups on the ground. Finally, Dr. Al Nuami stressed the importance of sending a message to the Afghani people that the international community is on their side and that they are not left behind.

Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin

Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for international anti-terrorist cooperation and the Director of the Department on the Issues of New Challenges and Threats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, transmitted the message of His Excellency Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation. In his message, Mr. Lavrov noted that the Russian Federation consistently advocated for a qualitative increase in the effectiveness of the United Nations' counter-terrorism efforts. He expressed concern on the developments in Afghanistan, which poses a danger to the countries of Central Asia and the Eurasian space caused by ISIS-Khorasan, Al-Qaeda, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and the East Turkestan Islamic Movement. Mr. Lavrov underscored the belief of the Russian Federation that States with their armed forces, special services, and law enforcement agencies, in strict compliance with international law, including the principle of non-interference in internal affairs, should play a leading role in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Tarabrin underlined that one of the priorities of the Russian Federation in counter-terrorism efforts is border security and cooperation throughout the United Nations. He recalled the various projects implemented jointly between UNOCT and the Russian Federation to implement the GCTS in Central Asia and to counter the weapon supply to terrorists in the region. Mr. Tarabrin also recalled the terrorist attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 5 September 2022 against the Embassy of the Russian Federation, noting with concern that the degradation of the situation in Afghanistan poses a serious security threat to Central Asia and the CIS. Finally, he reaffirmed the commitment of the Russian Federation in supporting Central Asia in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Salem Al Zaabi

Director of the Department on International Security Cooperation within the United Arab Emirates Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation stated that the UAE, continuously condemns the recruitment of FTFs as one of the most dangerous elements of terrorism worldwide. In this regard, Mr. Al Zaabi underlined that the UAE is supporting international efforts against FTFs, which requires denying them a safe haven. He commended the international community for its efforts in countering terrorism by strengthening international legal instruments but expressed concern over the FTFs in the context of conflicts and crises in various regions. Mr. Al Zaabi recalled the UAE's commitment to countering extremism and terrorism through international cooperation as part of its central component of domestic and foreign policy. In this regard, he underlined that the UAE had developed legislation and strategies to counter

terrorism in all its forms by strengthening border security and monitoring through advanced passenger information data. Finally, Mr. Al Zaabi informed that relevant authorities had also developed an advanced database at the local, regional and international levels and stressed the importance for the international community to maintain the counter-terrorism momentum by taking pragmatic measures to address the transnational threat across the world.

Ms. Vilma Thomas Ramirez

Director of Multilateral Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, noted with concern the increase in global instability, uncontrolled migration flows, international terrorism, and regional and international conflicts, among other global threats and challenges. Ms. Thomas Ramirez recalled that the Republic of Cuba has been a victim of terrorism for over six decades and condemned all the forms and manifestations of terrorism, including those in which States are involved directly or indirectly. Ms. Thomas Ramirez noted that the Republic of Cuba supports multilateral and bilateral cooperation through the exchange of information as a member of the World Customs Organization (WCO) and its Intelligence Liaison Network, with emphasis on the Caribbean region as well as global initiatives and operations organized by the WCO to prevent or confront the occurrence of crimes, giving priority to the fight against terrorism, among others. She also recalled the national and cooperative actions of the Republic of Cuba within the Latin American Financial Action Task Force to monitor the cross-border movement of cash and other means of payment, which is why the country equipped itself with modern technologies to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism. Finally, Ms. Thomas Ramirez also recalled the participation of the Republic of Cuba in the Global Container Control Program in collaboration with UNODC and expressed regret that the United States of America keeps the Republic of Cuba unfairly in the list of countries that allegedly sponsor terrorism which she considers as a politically motivated and unilateral list which obstructs collaborative efforts and contravenes international law.

Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver

Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations, commended the work of UNOCT as well as the holding of the successful High-Level Conference on Human Rights and Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism which was jointly organized with his Government in Malaga, Spain, in May 2022. Mr. Santos Maraver underlined the importance of effective border control, the fight against the financing of terrorism, including illicit trafficking of weapons, persons, or drugs,

or the movement of FTFs, which require further international cooperation. He noted that successful investigations and prosecutions of terrorist-related crimes depend on enabling frameworks, with a national information gathering process involving all relevant national stakeholders but also requiring collaboration at the international level. Mr. Santos Maraver noted that border security management entails national inter-agency cooperation as well as regional and international cooperation between States, noting that Regional Centres for Border Cooperation with representatives from relevant parties of different countries can be a great asset in the fight against terrorism. In addition, he underlined the importance of political will, which could lead for example, to a Customs – Police Cooperation Committee engaging the assets of relevant organizations. Mr. Santos Maraver also highlighted the importance for customs and police services to pro-actively engage and collaborate jointly in activities such as joint risk analysis and targeting, joint interdictions, joint investigations, joint controlled delivery operations and common training activities. In this regard, he cited the examples of EU initiatives such as LEICA (Law Enforcement in Central Asia) and BOMCA (Border Management Program in Central Asia) which ensure the exchange of practices and capacity-building.

Mr. Mitch Fifield

Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia to the United Nations, reiterated the position of the Commonwealth of Australia that terrorism and violent extremism has no place in the world and expressed concern regarding the significant, persistent and dynamic threat which he said required further international cooperation in areas such as the online radicalization of the youth. In this regard, he stressed the critical need for increased multilateral partnerships, and international and regional cooperation with civil society and industry in ensuring security and counter-terrorism objectives. Mr. Fifield recalled that strong and robust borders are key to countering terrorist threats, and reminded that the Commonwealth of Australia has worked closely with many States to strengthen border protection, including through strategies to stop the movement of terrorists, their financing, and related criminal syndicates. In addition, he expressed pride in supporting the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme implemented by UNOCT, which benefits the Republic of Tajikistan and Central Asian countries. Finally, Mr. Fifield reaffirmed Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity and condemned the Russian Federation for its unilateral, illegal, and immoral aggression against the people of Ukraine, which he said is a gross violation of international law, including the Charter of the United Nations. He called on Russia to withdraw its forces from Ukrainian territory.

Mr. Christopher A. Landberg

Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator of the Bureau of Counterterrorism within the Department of States of the United States of America, commended the countries of Central Asia for their counter-terrorism coordination which he said sets an example to the rest of the world. In this regard, he recalled that the US is committed to ensuring border security across the border between Afghanistan and the Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Landberg noted that the US supports the UNOCT's Countering Terrorist Travel Programme and echoed the importance of addressing the issue of FTFs as well as rehabilitation and reintegration through the Global Framework for United Nations Support on Syria / Iraq Third Country National Returnees. In this regard, he suggested that the best way to keep ISIS fighters from Northeast Syria is through prosecution, repatriation, and rehabilitation. Mr. Landberg also announced that the US would continue to support the engagements of OSCE and UNODC focusing on the empowerment of women. He also noted the added value of INTERPOL in border security through its information management. Finally, Mr. Landberg stressed the commitment of the US to the Coalition against ISIS in Central Asia.

Mr. Alexandre Zouev

Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions within the Department of Peace Operations, United Nations, briefed on the capacity-building support to Member States on counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism as provided by the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions. In this regard, he recalled the important partnership with UNOCT through the Strategic Partnership Framework signed in 2018. Mr. Zouev highlighted the importance of human rights and the rule of law in capacity building and recalled that the UN Police Division has been working with UNOCT to support Member States interested in establishing national interagency counter-terrorism coordination mechanisms known as Fusion Cells which provide technical expertise by assessing national cooperation mechanisms, intelligence and analytical capabilities to enhance law enforcement capacities which was being implemented in Africa. He identified a number of challenges in ensuring effective human rights and a rule of law-based approach, such as rigid counter-terrorism measures which prevent the adoption of flexible and complementary approaches, as well as the vague interpretation of "association with terrorist organizations" which leads to the stigmatization of entire communities and their re-victimization. He underlined that it is essential to support conflict-sensitive and context-specific approaches, taking into account national capacities and levels of violence. Mr. Zouev also touched upon the current lack of United Nations system-wide guidance on dealing with Armed Groups designated as Terrorist Groups as well as narrow interpretations of Security Council resolutions which often

create obstacles for advancing peacebuilding and conflict resolution measures. In this regard, he noted that emphasizing punitive measures deriving from counter-terrorism frameworks discourages members of extremist groups from voluntarily disengaging. He felt that the focus should be on bringing them to justice through judicial and non-judicial measures that can promote justice and ensure accountability in order to end conflict and reconstruct the social fabric.

Mr. Ung Eang

Vice President of the Secretariat of National Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Kingdom of Cambodia, reaffirmed his country's commitment to intensifying vigilance against international terrorism. He recalled that since the establishment of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee almost 20 years ago, the Kingdom of Cambodia has not suffered from any terrorist attack or a related illegal trafficking incident. Mr. Eang noted the national efforts to cooperate on counter-terrorism with partners on a regional and international level through measures dedicated to the maintenance of public security and international peace. He also reminded that the Kingdom of Cambodia had stepped up its commitments through the crucial sharing of information amongst partners, the implementation of regional capacity-building programs in the investigation of terrorist acts and intensified international cooperation. Mr. Eang announced that the Kingdom of Cambodia focuses on both the domestic and international levels in terms of workshops, trainings, capacity building, and strengthening border control and aviation security with modern border-guard systems, including the enhancement of its Advanced Passenger Information (API) capabilities. He added that the Royal Government of Cambodia continues its policy of harmonizing ethnic, religious aspects and human rights as these are indispensable in its counter-terrorism strategy, including the continued respect for human rights, women's and children's rights mechanisms in compliance with the Royal Government's existing Rectangular Strategic Policy.

Mr. Stanislav Zas

Secretary General of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), noted that the global phenomenon of FTFs is one of the biggest threats at the moment due to the participation in international terrorist organizations of more than forty thousand persons from more than a hundred States of the world. Mr. Zas recalled that the CSTO actively supports international initiatives to strengthen border security to combat terrorism by curbing the flow of FTFs across borders. He also expressed satisfaction with the cooperation with UNOCT and UNRCCA in the

framework of the Border Security Management Program and the project “Towards the implementation of the Joint Action Plan”. Mr. Zas reiterated the potential for further developing cooperation between the CSTO and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, the Anti-Terrorism Center and the Council of Commanders of the Border Troops of the CIS Member States in order to collectively counter terrorist threats in Central Asia. In this regard, he noted that the CSTO has formed and continues to improve a collective security system, including military and special operational and preventive measures as well as mechanisms with Member States for joint exercises and operations. Finally, Mr. Zas acknowledged the radically changed situation in Afghanistan, which has led to the emergence of potential border challenges. This development presented a challenge to the security of the region as a whole, and required preventing terrorists from crossing borders.

Mr. Lotfi Al-Harari

Head of the Internal Security Agency of the State of Libya, recalled that the country has been using legislative, military and other means in order to be at the forefront of fighting terrorism and extremism at the international level by cooperating with the United Nations. Mr. Al-Harari stressed his firm belief in the fight against terrorism in the southern territories of the State of Libya and expressed his support to the GCTS implementation both at the national and international levels. He recalled that the border control protocol between the State of Libya, the Republic of Niger and the Republic of Chad, which was signed in 2013, allowed progress on the exchange of information at the level of law enforcement. Mr. Al-Harari stated that terrorism could not be tackled by a single country due to political and legal challenges, such as the lack of definition of terrorism at the international level, which is why the lack of cooperation in harmonizing the definition of terrorism can be abused by some groups to recruit followers. He also highlighted the importance of information exchange on terrorism without misusing the concept of political asylum to accommodate terrorists. Mr. Al-Harari also highlighted alternative ways of countering terrorism and violent extremism through education and relevant legislation which he said was relevant for every State.

Mr. Beketzhan Zhumakhanov

Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), recalled that the CIS had established a system of sectoral and specialized bodies that ensure the continuous interaction of national armed forces, special services, law enforcement and legislative

bodies, academic and educational communities. Mr. Zhumakhanov also informed that the CIS is working on the improvement of joint military systems; an integrated system for monitoring and assessing radiation as well as the chemical and biological situation; and, a unified geoinformation system for military purposes and joint exercises. He underlined that military cooperation is increasingly focused on aspects of countering terrorism, which includes systematic and coordinated activities in the border areas of the CIS Member States. Mr. Zhumakhanov presented the CIS programmes dedicated to strengthening border security at the external borders (2021-2025), in the fight against crime (2019-2023) and the fight against terrorism and other violent manifestations of extremism (2020–2022). He recalled that in October 2021, the Heads of State had signed the Treaty of the CIS Member States on Combating the Legalization of Proceeds from Crime, the Financing of Terrorism and the Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and the Program on cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism for 2023-2025. He also recalled that the CIS had carried out two joint special operations in 2022, focusing on border security. Mr. Zhumakhanov expressed appreciation for the high level of cooperation with the CTC, the Eurasian Group on Combating Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism as well as the relevant structures of the OSCE, SCO and CSTO.

Mr. Imran Haider

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Tajikistan, noted with concern the factors which aggravate the challenge of terrorism such as socio-political conditions, historical injustices, foreign interventions, foreign occupation, protracted conflicts, and growing geo-political rivalries. Mr. Haider observed that border security and management is crucial in preventing the flow of suspected terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters as well as in reducing the cross-border movement of illicit cargo, which includes drugs, money, and ammunition. He recalled that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan is the country that has suffered the most due to terrorism, without taking into account active conflict zones. Mr. Haider recommended that the Central Asian region should focus on border controls by enhancing the capacity of the authorities with modern physical and electronic surveillance coupled with a robust intelligence-sharing mechanism between countries of the region. He also noted that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan maintains a comprehensive counter-terrorism and counter-extremism regime as well as a robust border security management system that meets all obligations under relevant Security Council resolutions and applicable provisions of international law, which are being further enhanced. In this regard, Mr. Haider recalled that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan maintains a central database of information from security agencies to monitor and prevent the movement of suspected individuals, with dedicated departments monitoring cyberspace and social media platforms.

Finally, he underlined the importance of investment in border security posts in the proximity of Afghanistan to stop any kind of undocumented and illegal infiltration and reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan would continue to play a leading role in the region in countering terrorism and ensuring peace and security.

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

The representatives of the Commonwealth of Australia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the CIS shared their views and concerns on the conflict in Ukraine.

“All States and regional and international organizations should have a constructive contribution in preventing and weakening terrorist threats. The Kingdom is a supporter of all measures that play a role in the elimination of terrorism within the framework of international law and resolutions of the Security Council and its national regulations.”

Mr. Waleed Abdulrahman Al-Reshaidan

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Tajikistan

Thematic Sessions

SESSION I

Regional Border Security Challenges: Identifying Threats, Risks and Avenues for Improvement

Mr. Raffi Gregorian

Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of UNOCT, and one of the two Co-moderators of the Session I, called on Member States to adopt further measures on border security management that are consistent with both national and international law, as it is the primary responsibility of their national security and border agencies to identify, detect, and interdict the movement of terrorists. Mr. Gregorian recalled that Tajikistan shares a 1,300 kilometers border with Afghanistan, a significant part of which extends through inhospitable terrain that would require a border guard for every 50 meters to be effectively protected. He noted that since August 2021, a multitude of discussions has focused on threats emanating from Afghanistan since most Central Asian countries share similar border security challenges with this country. Mr. Gregorian also underlined the need to focus on current and emerging threats due to the concerning potential linkage between terrorist groups and organized crime, such as the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological weapons, drugs, artifacts, cultural property, and trafficking in persons.

Ms. Vanessa Frazier

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations, and Co-moderator of the Session, recalled the importance of border management and security which need to be

incorporated by Member States at the regional and international level. In this regard, she noted that success is based on information sharing as well as rule of law based and human rights compliant counter-terrorism border security policies which include proportionality and the respect for the right to privacy. Ms. Frazier stated that information sharing among law enforcement agencies remain the most important challenge in ensuring effective border security in compliance with international law. She also underlined the need to keep abreast with the evolving trends in the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition, and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear weapons, which require timely cooperation at the regional and sub-regional levels as they pose the risk that the proceeds of such criminal activity are used to spread radical and violent activities. Ms. Frazier called on the United Nations and regional organizations to provide support to Member States in the updating and implementation of related national legislation, emphasizing the need to keep track of the latest trends and strategies being used by terrorists and criminals alike.

Ms. Terhi Hakala

European Union Special Representative for Central Asia, noted that in view of the changing security environment, terrorism and violent extremism remain a top priority on the EU agenda, particularly along its southern and eastern borders and beyond. She reminded that the threat from Da'esh, Al-Qaeda, and their affiliates is high and continues to undermine stability in various regions, as well as the EU's security. Ms. Hakala noted that major threats, which include homegrown terrorists, foreign fighter returnees, attacks directed from abroad, as well as the spread of ideologies that lead to radicalization and violent extremism. She recalled that Member States are primarily responsible for the fight against terrorism and radicalization, but the ever-increasing cross-border dimension of the threat calls for further steps in the EU coordination. In this regard, Ms. Hakala underlined that cooperation with partners to understand developments inside Afghanistan and the region is essential, particularly given the unwillingness of the Taliban to take action against the terrorist groups and the ability of IS-K to persist. She stated that the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters is emblematic of the link between internal and external security, which requires comprehensive border management strategies to tackle the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, drawing on the expertise of the Network of EU Counter-Terrorism/Security Experts. Ms. Hakala also stressed the importance of cooperating with third countries to enhance a common culture of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) safety and security, making full use of the EU global CBRN Centres of Excellence. In addition, she recalled the EU's common approach on border management based on risk analysis support, and technical and operational assistance for

the control of the external borders. Ms. Hakala expressed concern that emerging challenges have no borders, such as new and emerging technologies, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology, synthetic biotechnologies, or virtual and augmented reality that can offer terrorists the potential to carry out attacks more easily. In this regard, she announced that the EU had enacted legislation to remove terrorist content online.

Mr. Ilaman Ilamanov

Deputy Chairman of the State Border Service of Turkmenistan, noted that Turkmenistan is working on issues that can ensure peace, security, and sustainable development in Central Asia by supporting international efforts in combating manifestations of terrorism and radicalism. Mr. Ilamanov stressed that joint efforts between Member States and international structures are required in order to successfully counter the threat of terrorism and recalled that Turkmenistan traditionally maintains close cooperation with other States, as well as international structures, such as the United Nations, EU and OSCE. He underlined the special role of the United Nations and its specialized structures in the promotion of stable and progressive development of regional processes. In this regard, Mr. Ilamanov recalled Turkmenistan's commitment to strengthening cooperation and taking an active part in the activities of relevant specialized structures, noting that the national border security strategies are carried out in accordance with the neutral status of the country, as well as international agreements, and the foreign policy of its neighboring countries, with the aim of promoting strong and friendly relations with neighboring states and complying with international contractual obligations. He also informed that the State Border Service of Turkmenistan closely cooperates with the United Nations through its structural and specialized agencies, such as the UNOCT, UNODC and UNRCCA. Finally, Mr. Ilamanov reiterated that Turkmenistan would further continue its effective cooperation and joint activities on a long-term basis by actively participating in various events and seminars planned for implementation in 2023.

Mr. Christopher A. Landberg

Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator of the Bureau of Counterterrorism within the Department of States of the United States of America, recalled that Central Asia as a region has a 2,000 kilometers border with Afghanistan. Mr. Landberg noted that most of the US funds and support were related to border security and noted that the three main objectives of the US Bureau of Counterterrorism are to disrupt the travel of foreign terrorist fighters, investigate, prosecute and

reintegrate the foreign terrorist fighters; and to prevent and counter violent extremist behaviors which can benefit terrorist groups action, particularly ISIS-K. In this regard, he underlined the importance of bilateral and multilateral approaches, such as the C5+1 diplomatic summit. Mr. Landberg stressed the importance of the inclusion of universities and civil society organizations (CSOs) in the process and encouraged Member States to undertake measures to further implement United Nations Security Council resolutions to support Border Security and Management, particularly the prescriptions of Resolution 2396 (2017). He recalled that the US supports the work of the UNOCT Counter Terrorism Travel Program as well as INTERPOL, and together with other United Nations agencies, provides ongoing technical assistance in the region with the aim of strengthening support to Member States at the national and national levels. Finally, Mr. Landberg reiterated that the United States of America remains a committed partner to the Central Asian region and looks forward to further enhancing cooperation with Central Asian States.

Mr. Paddy Ginn

Senior Adviser of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), briefed on the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and explosives, and potential linkages with terrorist organizations in Afghanistan with a focus on the approach of the de facto authorities of Afghanistan. Mr. Ginn expressed concern that the illicit proliferation of weapons, ammunition and related material poses a threat to Afghanistan, its people, and to regional and international peace and security which have worsened with the large-scale loss of military equipment after the withdrawal of international forces, the collapse of the Afghan Republic, the Taliban takeover, and the loss of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces' national stockpile which is one of the most serious cases of weapon diversion in recent history. He also stressed that many of the weapons remain unaccounted for, and risk being diverted to illicit armed groups and terrorist actors inside and outside Afghanistan. In this regard, Mr. Ginn recalled that in March 2022, the United Nations Security Council mandated UNAMA to address the accumulation and diversion of small arms and light weapons in Afghanistan and the wider region. He also noted that the Security Council Resolution 2626 on UNAMA mandate reflects concerns over the risks of weapon proliferation and a lack of confidence in the capacity or willingness to address these challenges of the Taliban de facto authorities. Mr. Ginn recalled that in addition to relevant United Nations entities, international organizations and Member States, UNAMA is also consulting directly with the de facto Taliban authority, in line with the Mission's mandate to support the Afghan people and regional and international peace and stability. In this regard, he noted that the UNAMA tackles three main challenges with respect to arms control

which are illicit trade, diversion, and accumulation, and is also playing a supporting role with the regional dimension. As the challenges posed by weapon proliferation threaten both the internal and external security of Afghanistan, as well as the safety of the civilian population, Mr. Ginn recalled that UNAMA aims to better understand the nature and scale of the small arms and light weapons challenges in Afghanistan and the region by assessing risks and threats as well as to identifying potential options to promote local and multilateral measures to counter these threats. In addition, Mr. Ginn informed that the de facto authorities had confirmed their intent not to allow Afghanistan to be used against other nations, noting that engagement on security issues may be an opportunity for building confidence between the Taliban de facto authorities and the international community. Finally, he underlined that UNAMA does not provide technical assistance to the de facto authorities in Afghanistan on issues such as arms management as it is prohibited under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1988 on arms embargo, aware that this would require a UN sanctions committee exemption.

Mr. Pavel Tikhonov

Major General, Deputy Head within the Anti-Terrorism Center of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS ATC), recalled that Afghanistan is the main threat to Central Asia as its borders might face the expansion of terrorism due to the lack of effective public administration. He noted that while the Taliban continue to ignore the possibility of forming a government that represents the interests of all ethnic, religious, and political groups of the society, the conflict in its leadership is growing, with an increased risk of uncontrolled migration resulting from a possible armed conflict or economic crisis. Mr. Tikhonov also informed that the most radical international terrorist organizations in the region continue to be the Islamic State – Khorasan Province, Al-Qaeda, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, and Jamaat Ansarulloh, noting with concern an increase in the propaganda impact of these international terrorist organizations on the population of the CIS Member States with the aim of radicalization. In this regard, Mr. Tikhonov also expressed his concern over the activities of a powerful Islamist underground network that aims to recruit a large number of radically religious youth, as well as the expansion of the production and traffic of narcotic drugs transported through the Caspian and Black Sea routes. Furthermore, he stressed the serious concern of the involvement of extremist communities in local conflicts and transitional processes in the CIS countries and recalled that the CIS is working on identifying persons found on the interstate wanted list for crimes of a terrorist nature. Mr. Tikhonov informed that the Anti-Terrorism Center annually organizes coordinated search activities and joint special border operations to enhance interstate cooperation, interdepartmental interaction, information exchange, and anti-terrorist security of

critical infrastructure facilities. He also recalled that in 2022, seven CIS countries conducted joint counter-terrorism exercises with the competent authorities, and during the period of the Center's activity, 18 joint anti-terrorist exercises were carried out.

Ms. Ashita Mittal

UNODC Regional Representative to Central Asia, recalled that Central Asia has achieved a significant increase in regional cooperation and called on further collaboration on regional border management as terrorist groups continue to pose threats to the security of borders and the general population. Ms. Mittal noted that social, economic marginalization and inequalities, as well as human rights violations, contribute to conditions exploited to promote violent extremism conducive to terrorism. She expressed concern that terrorist groups utilize new methods and technologies, including cybercrimes, to diversify their modes of financing and operations. Ms. Mittal informed that following the Taliban takeover in August 2021, terrorist groups in the country, such as ISIL-Khorasan, had increasingly created cross-border risks to neighboring countries, further radicalization, violent extremism, illicit trafficking, and terrorist financing. In this regard, she stressed that illicit flows are on the rise, including drugs such as heroin, firearms, foreign terrorist fighter movement, and smuggling of people. Ms. Mittal, therefore, called for greater cross-border cooperation, as well as strengthening communication and intelligence-sharing between Member States in Central Asia without impinging on legitimate international trade, and always including community engagement, social cohesion, and cybersecurity in an integrated manner. She also announced that UNODC is committed to supporting Central Asia in a comprehensive response to terrorism within its Programme for Central Asia 2022-2025 and other initiatives which aim to strengthen networks within and between regions, enable international cooperation, support operational coordination and build technical capacities. Ms. Mittal reminded that with the support of UNODC, 20 Border Liaison Offices, 20 Port Control Units and Air Cargo Control Units were established in the region, as well as 13 new Inter-agency Mobile Teams in the Republic of Uzbekistan to prevent illicit movement flows, and 11 border posts on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Mr. Talgat Ashetov

Expert of the ISIL (Da'esh)/Al-Qaida Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team of the United Nations Security Council, noted that the Taliban favor a military rather than a political solution to the situation in Afghanistan, as 51 members from the leadership of the new de facto

administration are included in the 1988 United Nations Security Council Sanctions List with the highest positions of ministers and deputies being given to representatives of the "old guard" of the Taliban and not based on competence. Mr. Ashetov expressed concern about potential ethnic conflicts in the country and informed of the internal split within the Taliban between the moderate bloc and hardliners. He also stressed that the main leadership of Al-Qaeda continues to be present in Afghanistan. In addition, he stated that the ISIL terrorist group in the Khorasan province continues to be the main terrorist threat to Afghanistan and poses a challenge to the de facto Taliban government, transferring conflict to the interfaith level. This group will continue to focus on attacks in Afghanistan in the short term, and they will be able to prepare trans-regional terrorist attacks in the future from seized territories. Regarding the Central Asian region, he informed that the main terrorist groups are the Union of Islamic Jihad, Katiba Imam al-Bukhari and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan which gained greater freedom of movement from remote areas to capital provinces. He stressed that foreign terrorist fighters from Central Asia and members of the Turkistan Islamic Movement in Afghanistan expect that the de facto Taliban administration will grant them refugee status and that the Haqqani Network, which is considered an intermediary between the Taliban and foreign terrorist fighters in the country, facilitates the obtaining of new Afghan passports by foreign terrorist fighters.

“ To fight terrorism, a strong multilateral framework – with the United Nations at its core – remains something essential for all of us. The European Union will share its experience and its approach as co-chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum”.

Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs / Vice President of the European Commission

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Zahangir MD Alam

Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of Uzbekistan with concurrent accreditation to Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Republic of Tajikistan, underlined the commitment of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to a zero-tolerance policy towards terrorism, recalling that since 2017, 1.2 million Rohingya have fled from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which provides them with humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, Mr. Alam noted with concern that the Rohingya refugees are vulnerable to radicalization, are increasingly targeted by criminal groups, and are prone to take up arms themselves, therefore undermining stability in the country and the region. Finally, he informed that in November 2017, the People's Republic of Bangladesh signed an agreement with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the latter of which agreed to take back its citizens.

Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev

Director of the International Security Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan stressed that border security is one of the cornerstones of counter-terrorism and is crucial to address the nexus with organized crime. In this regard, he noted that an efficient border security strategy relies on border officers trained to tackle context-based border threats, as well as to manage significant amounts of data, such as on API/PNR in a timely manner. Additionally, he noted that an inclusive approach that engages non-governmental stakeholders is desirable. The representative also reiterated that the Republic of Azerbaijan seeks to maintain high standards of border security management since its strategic position makes it rather vulnerable. Finally, the representative informed that the end of the conflict with the Republic of Armenia carries the potential for renovated regional cooperation.

Mr. Hadi Farajvand

Director of the Department of UN Security Council Affairs and International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism from the Islamic Republic of Iran recalled that the country is a pioneer in the fight against Da'esh in the Syrian Arab Republic. The representative expressed concern that the disastrous situation caused by terrorists directly affects direct victims but also communities,

with a broader impact on peace and security. In this regard, the representative underlined that strengthening cooperation in a coherent manner free from any politicization is the only possible solution to fight against terrorism. The representative added that for many years Afghanistan had been a suitable platform for transfers of terrorists to neighboring countries, which is why border control is fundamental to preventing terrorist movements across the region. Finally, he reminded that when experiencing pressure, terrorists tend to move to a neighboring country, therefore the need to reduce and cut off the possibility of such border movements.

Mr Üzeyir Aziz Özeren

Deputy Director General of Provincial Administrations at the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Türkiye recalled that the country shares 11,000 kilometers of borders with neighboring countries and informed that its integrated border management module, with the current implementation of phase II, is starting to produce the desired results, which sends a clear message to those that plan to transit through or settle in the country. The representative added that as of today, the Republic of Türkiye counts 1,061 km of its security wall; 620 km of the newly added border lighting system; 100 additional armored vehicles procured for border units, and increased surveillance capacity on the Syrian border while paying close attention to maritime border security. Finally, the representative informed that the Republic of Türkiye supports and aims for strengthened interinstitutional cooperation and coordination on border security and management.

Mr. Chris Felton

Counsellor and Head of the United Kingdom's Counter Terrorism and Extremism Network in Asia, recalled that the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland provided a total of 145 million pounds in two years to Afghanistan and which funds were focused on border security and monitoring the traffic of narcotics.

Ms. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh

Professor at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris) raised the importance of treating the human security of border communities as a part of national security and especially of border security and management. Ms. Tadjbakhsh briefed on her case study for SIPRI and OSI

in October 2015 along the Amu Darya river, in Khatlon and the district of Darvoz in Badakhshan of Tajikistan and in Takhar, Kunduz and Balkh provinces in Afghanistan and a second case study carried out in 2017 for UN Women along the poorly demarcated border regions in the Sughd province in the Republic of Tajikistan and the Batken region in the Kyrgyz republic. She noted that the relegation and neglect of populations living around border regions can lead to grievances that can threaten national and border security. Secondly, she noted that border populations are also huge opportunities for trust building and awareness raising as they know their communities very well and are also familiar with communities across the borders helping to detect trespassers.

“Terrorist groups will seek to exploit every gap, with significant consequences for the region and beyond. The countries of Central Asia are at the forefront in responding to this threat”.

Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

SESSION II

The Phenomenon of FTFs and Its Implications for the Central Asian Region and Beyond and Addressing Related Border Security Funding Needs through the Support of the International Community

Mr. Rahmon Yusuf Ahmadzod

General Prosecutor of the Republic of Tajikistan, and one of the Co-moderators of the Session II, recalled that terrorist attacks in Syria and Iraq are challenges to global security and stability. He also noted that the wives and children of terrorist fighters are also a topic that needs to be addressed. Mr. Ahmadzod expressed regret that the radicalization of individuals is at a high level

as some do not want to return to a secular life and abandon extremist ideas. He stressed that within the Republic of Tajikistan's Strategy for 2021-2025, the State is undertaking all necessary actions which have resulted in certain achievements with respect to rehabilitation.

Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah

Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch of UNOCT, noted that foreign terrorist fighters continue to pose a global threat despite the territorial defeat of Da'esh in March 2019. He reminded that Al-Qaida may once again have a safe haven in Afghanistan, while the Da'esh Khorasan province has more than doubled in size over the past year. Mr. Shah recalled that the threats are exacerbated by terrorist organizations working together with other criminal enterprises to support their cross-border activities which requires a robust, coherent and harmonized response. He recalled the importance of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which brings together 45 entities and representatives from 135 Member States and several regional organizations. In this regard, Mr. Shah underlined that the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact provides an unparalleled platform of expertise and know-how to coherently coordinate assistance to requesting Member States to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. He highlighted the work of the Border Management and Law Enforcement Working Group whose primary objective is to assist Member States to implement comprehensive and coordinated approaches to address terrorism, through prevention, contingency planning, and effective counter-responses. He observed that last year, the Working Group developed the GCTF Counterterrorism Watchlisting Toolkit jointly with the United States of America which is an important contribution to enhancing international cooperation in the watchlisting process, and encouraged by United Nations Security Council resolutions 2322 (2016) and 2396 (2017), and in line with the 2018 Addendum to the Madrid Guiding Principles on Foreign Terrorist Fighters. In addition, Mr. Shah also reminded of the launch of the Technical guidelines to facilitate the implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) and related international standards and good practices on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons.

Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev

Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO), noted with concern that the competent authorities of the SCO Member States inform that international terrorist organizations are striving to increase their

activity, which is a serious factor in complicating the geopolitical situation in the world with a change in the nature of the activities of international terrorist organizations in the tactics of conducting agitation and propaganda activities, regrouping forces, building up their potential by recruiting new recruits, searching for additional sources of funding, and committing high-profile terrorist attacks with numerous victims. Mr. Mirzaev noted that the SCO RATS Executive Committee had established a regular exchange of information on identified foreign terrorist fighters between the competent authorities of the Member States of the SCO with a special focus on improving the technical aspects of the practical interaction of the Parties and filling the data banks for collective use. Mr. Mirzaev further stated that the SCO RATS seeks to intensify joint activities aimed at identifying and blocking the channels for the movement of persons involved in terrorist activities into the territory of the SCO Member States, including foreign terrorist fighters. He informed that at the expert platform of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Organization, a decision was made to study the experience of foreign states in the implementation and operation of systems for preliminary information about passengers and data on their registration records in order to increase the efficiency of research on the routes of movement of citizens.

Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin

Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, for international anti-terrorist cooperation and the Director of the Department on the Issues of New Challenges and Threats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation stated that the phenomenon of foreign terrorist fighters is one of the most dangerous manifestations of modern terrorism which can affect the whole world, including Central Asia where it creates significant risks for the security of the entire region as well as additional socio-economic challenges at the national level. Mr. Tarabrin noted with concern the accession to power in Afghanistan in August 2021 of the Taliban Movement, which gave a tremendous impetus to various international terrorist organizations around the world, which consider the events in Afghanistan as a victory for radicalism. He noted that the Taliban are in no hurry to fulfill obligations to stop the terrorist and drug threats but is also not yet able to put an end to the terrorist organizations in the country, such as Al-Qaeda, the Afghan "branch" of ISIS - Wilayat Khorasan, the East Turkestan Islamic Movement, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan as each of these groups count hundreds of foreign terrorist fighters present in the northeastern regions of Afghanistan bordering Pakistan, including the provinces of Badakhshan, Kunar, Nangarhar, as well as in the northern province of Kunduz bordering the Republic of Tajikistan. Mr. Tarabrin also noted with concern the estimated number of foreign

fighters in the north and northeast of Afghanistan, amounting to about 1700-1800 people and recalled that ISIS - Wilayat Khorasan counts about 6000 terrorists with increased recruitment and propaganda activities which include payouts, and incentives to new recruits. He noted that propagandists aim to attract national minorities such as Uzbeks, Tajiks and Turkmens, who can consider membership in those organizations as a protection against ethnic cleansing by the Taliban. In this regard, Mr. Tarabrin stressed the threat of foreign terrorist fighter operations in Central Asia as they cross the Afghan border with their family members under the guise of refugees and migrant workers with forged documents. He called for the criminalization of cross-border movements of terrorists and ensuring the inevitability of punishment for terrorism which is fully in line with the provisions of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396. He also underlined the effectiveness of the mechanisms of mutual legal assistance and extradition in criminal cases, including on the basis of the principle of “extradite or prosecute”.

Mr. Weixiong Chen

Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), recalled that Central Asia is in immediate proximity to regions marked by terrorist activity, including the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, illicit drugs, and arms trafficking, making the region vulnerable to security challenges and placing it at the forefront of the international fight against terrorism. Mr. Chen underlined the progress made in Central Asia in strengthening international and regional counter-terrorism cooperation and coordination and stressed that strengthening border security should become one of the top priorities for Central Asian Member States as thousands of individuals from the region traveled to conflict zones in the Middle East to join foreign terrorist fighters, and their return to countries of origin or relocation to third countries poses new challenges. He expressed concern that border protection and management in Central Asia continues to be hampered by porous border, insufficient resources and poor infrastructure and noted with concern the developments in Afghanistan which can become a safe haven to terrorist groups such as Al-Qaida and ISIL-Khorasan Province. Mr. Chen informed with concern that ISIL-Khorasan Province increased its presence in northern and eastern Afghanistan and includes fighters from Central Asia who have reportedly increased activities in the north. He also briefed on the activities of CTED and its expert assessments of the implementation by Member States of relevant Security Council resolutions and noted that certain States of Central Asia had been visited more than once. He also alluded to the technical expertise of CTED which includes law enforcement and border management; counter-financing of terrorism; legal and criminal justice; and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism. In this regard, Mr. Chen underlined that

CTED seeks to ensure that measures to be taken by States are human rights compliant and gender-sensitive.

Mr. Imran Haider

Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of Tajikistan, noted that as thousands fled from Afghanistan after the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban, there were genuine concerns within the neighboring countries that foreign terrorist fighters who had been operating inside Afghanistan for decades would either relocate to their countries or would use them to transit to other areas of conflicts compounding situations over there, stating that some of those fears still remain. He also expressed concern about the presence of international terrorist organizations which are actively operating in Afghanistan, and which possibly include many foreign fighters, requiring effective border control in the Central Asian region. He highlighted the importance of a robust intelligence-sharing mechanism among intelligence agencies of the Central Asian countries in effectively neutralizing terrorist threats. In this regard, he recalled the robust border security management system of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in line with the provisions of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and international law, such as the revised National Action Plan aimed to create an atmosphere that does not allow for a subscription of militancy in society and increased controls on issuance and monitoring of the use of all identification documents that could be used for travelling.

Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva

Chief of the Office of the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), recalled that with the territorial defeat of Da'esh in Iraq and Syria, many surviving foreign terrorist fighters have since returned, attempted to return, or relocated to other conflict zones which creates multifaceted challenges in the areas of prevention, protection, detection, prosecution, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration. Ms. Niyazberdiyeva recalled that UNOCT works in partnership with other United Nations entities to support Central Asian States on the issue of foreign terrorist fighters through its global and regional programmes such as the Global Framework on United Nations Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country National Returnees, the Joint Plan of Action, STRIVE Asia and others while coordinating an 'all-of-UN' approach to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact. Ms. Niyazberdiyeva invited all partners to support the UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism which consolidates initiatives from 12 entities from across the

Global Counter-Terrorism Compact to deliver multi-partner projects and programmes with emphasis on human rights, gender equality and the empowerment of women. In this regard, she recalled that the Central Asian region cluster of the Appeal includes six inter-agency initiatives with a total funding volume of \$18 million that deliver targeted activities in Central Asia across a wide range of topics. Ms. Niyazberdiyeva informed of the recently received confirmation of financial commitment from the People's Republic of China to the United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund, to support the implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Early Warning Network in Central Asia and which was launched in June 2022. She recalled that the Early Warning Network is one of the main initiatives jointly administered with the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA) within the scope of the Joint Plan of Action Phase IV project.

Mr. Masood Karimipour

Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, recalled the long-standing challenge of foreign terrorist fighters in Syria and Iraq and their prosecution, repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration, and expressed concern over the individuals travelling to fight or train in conflict areas such as Afghanistan. In line with UNSC resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017), he underlined the importance of bringing foreign terrorist fighters to justice in a fair and human rights compliant process which he said is essential to ensuring accountability for any crimes they have committed and as a security imperative to ensure that those individuals are no longer a threat. In addition, Mr. Karimipour noted that managing high-risk prisoners including convicted FTFs put increasing demands on prison authorities to address the potential radicalization of their inmates as their effective management include the development of a robust prisoner classification system including Risks and Needs Assessments as well as the capacity of prison staff in identifying the signs of radicalization to violence, and intelligence gathering. Mr. Karimipour reiterated that UNODC supports the development of legal frameworks to regulate the responsible collection, use and protection of personal data for counter terrorism purposes, providing operational support to national authorities to process and analyze data in a manner that is consistent with the right to privacy, data protection, freedom of movement and non-discrimination.

Ms. Rokeya Kabir

Executive Director of the “Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha” civil society organization, recalled that her organization has been working over the last 35 years for a society where women can act without cultural, economic, or political restriction and for a society free from discrimination and violence. Ms. Kabir shared her experience of working with victims of terrorism and the hardship endured by women. She recalled the importance of respecting human rights, more specifically women and children in counter-terrorism strategies. Ms. Kabir noted with concern that massive migration can favor organized crime and terrorism through crossing points, which exposes women and children, and stressed that cooperation and information-sharing between States could limit violence and abuses. She also expressed concern over the free movement of radicalized individuals, and in this regard, stressed the need for bilateral cooperation between states in the surveillance of the education sector to avoid the infiltration of radicalized individuals.

Mr. Rajabzoda Nasimjon

First Deputy Commander of the Border Troops within the State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, briefed on the variety of threats at the Tajik-Afghan border despite the security maintained by the border troops as well as the established signalization complexes as they are lacking resources and infrastructure. Mr. Nasimjon stressed that the Republic of Tajikistan lost a large number of soldiers in terrorist raids at border points, underlining the need for further professionalization of border troops as well as assistance from the international community. Mr. Nasimjon expressed concern over terrorists acquiring new types of weapons, using IT techniques and getting acquainted with the system of border security to carry out provocations. He informed that the Republic of Tajikistan had carried out 640 special operations at the borders in the 2013-2022 period, emphasizing that border security from terrorist organizations is impossible without the appropriate infrastructure.

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Ms. Nancy Jamal

Ambassador and Head of the Strategic Affairs Sector at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Bahrain recalled that the concept of foreign terrorist fighters goes back many

decades, and even though the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 provides an agreed-upon definition, there is a need for a common understanding of the terminology and definitions. On border security and management, she emphasised the importance of a multidisciplinary approach requiring structures to support bilateral and regional cooperation, such as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center.

Mr. Riad Haddad

Ambassador of Syria to the Russian Federation highlighted that the violation of border integrity contributed to smuggling by terrorists and that the fight against terrorism requires the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions without politicization, collective international action, constructive and meaningful regional cooperation, as well as technical assistance for border tools.

Mr. Rustam Miralizoda

Director of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) drew attention to the connection between terrorism and organized crime as they are intertwined and supplement each other through funding. In this regard, he highlighted the need to counter those links through better data collection and information exchange, close international cooperation for enhancing operational capacities as well as international measures to counter narco-trafficking.

Mr. Hadi Farajvand

Director of the Department of UN Security Council Affairs and International Cooperation in Countering Terrorism from the Islamic Republic of Iran echoed the report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat. He underlined that despite its losses, Da'esh remains a threat at the border between Iraq and Syria, and, in this regard, stressed the need for effective usage of electronic border tools, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and systems to monitor threats, while warning against politicization of terrorism which can undermine these efforts. He recalled that the problem of foreign terrorist fighters continues to be one of the most serious threats, highlighting the situation in Afghanistan.

“When dealing with individuals associated with terrorist organizations, the focus should be on bringing them to justice, which could mean adopting judicial and non-judicial measures (such as prosecutions, reparations, guarantees of non-repetition, truth commissions, rehabilitation and reintegration) that can promote justice and ensure accountability”.

Mr. Alexandre Zouev

Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations

SESSION III

Towards Effective Rule of Law Based Border Security Management Strategies and Whole-of-Society Solutions

Mr. Eldor Aripov

First Deputy Secretary of the Security Council under the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and one of the Co-moderators for the Session III, recalled the difficult situation in Central Asia due to continuing threats and challenges to regional security and the risks of infiltration of terrorist groups into the Central Asian countries. In this regard, he noted that effective counter-terrorism depends on societal dialogue, promoting education as well as empowering women and youth. He also stressed that the lack of justice, social mobility for young people, and limited access to education can contribute to radicalization in society. Mr. Aripov informed that the Republic of Uzbekistan tackles terrorism by ensuring respect to human rights and freedoms as well as the rule of law. He noted the broad consensus in Central Asia that anti-terrorist policies should be based on a comprehensive and inclusive approach which includes preventive measures and law enforcement, while including civil society organizations. Mr. Aripov recalled

the adoption of the Tashkent Declaration in March 2022 in which the countries of the region called on the international community and civil society to work closely in preventing and countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, as well as the JPoA for the implementation of the GCTS in Central Asia on the basis of which the States developed their national strategies. He recalled the creation of special “assistance teams” at the border settlements of the Republic of Uzbekistan with the participation of local activists which notify border guards on illegal border crossings and assist in the searches and detection as well as carrying out preventive and educational activities. He also added that civil society organizations are involved in the analysis and resolution of conflict situations in border areas, and informed that the "Institute for Democracy and Human Rights" of the Republic of Uzbekistan, for the first time in Central Asia, had initiated the creation of a Women's Contact Group, which contributes to eliminating risks of interethnic conflicts at border areas.

Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu

United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Republic of Tajikistan, recalled the importance of implementing shared experiences on border security and noted that the discussions could benefit from a greater focus on topics related to the rule of law. Ms. Sinanoglu stressed that the goal of terrorists is to disrupt society by endangering human rights and freedoms, and if States react in a similar manner, it would be a victory for terrorists helping to feed their narrative. She noted that corruption, inequality, and human rights abuses lay fertile ground for terrorism, and therefore underlined the importance of protection of human rights as the only approach to fight the terrorist narrative. Ms. Sinanoglu stressed that borders are about States defining their territory and sovereignty but also about people and human interaction as well as economic development, which is why their management should be based on a whole-of-society approach in a secure and inclusive manner.

Ms. Tea Jaliashvili

Acting Head of Mission of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, recalled the assistance provided by the OSCE to the Republic of Tajikistan on border security and management since 2008 as well as on countering terrorism and violent extremism for over a decade. Ms. Jaliashvili recalled that the OSCE had published a guidebook for Central Asia on “A Whole-of-Society Approach to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization That Lead to Terrorism” in 2020, which supports policymakers in the region in the development and

implementation of effective strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism while strengthening the cooperation among government and civil society actors. She informed that the OSCE Programme Office carries out multiple technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives by reinforcing technical capacities of government structures and training civil society on effective border security management and countering the threat of terrorism. She added that the Programme Office facilitates cooperation between Border Troops and local communities, and noted that in 2022 alone, it supported Tajik Border Troops to enhance cooperation with local communities living in areas bordering with Afghanistan, which reached over 1700 community members to improve communication between law enforcement and civil society, and ensured a role for the local population in border security. Ms. Jaliashvili informed that the Office applies a community-driven line to countering the threat of violent extremism and terrorist radicalization by delivering a wide range of programmatic activities in close co-ordination with the host country aiming at empowering youth, women and community leaders of the Republic of Tajikistan and focusing on communities living close to the Tajik-Afghan border.

Mr. Khushvakht Kishvarsho Sulton

Deputy Commander of the Border Troops within the State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, recalled that a challenging social and political situation lay a fertile ground for religious extremism and terrorism, which is further fueled by the drug trade. Mr. Sulton reminded that the long border with Afghanistan is affecting the situation on the Tajik side, as there are over 40 terrorist camps in the vicinity of the border, such as the Taliban, ISIS/Da'esh, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, among others which acquired important amounts of modern equipment from the former Afghan army and coalition forces after the withdrawal. He expressed concern over the increase in drug production, including heroin and synthetic drugs in Afghanistan, and informed that the Tajik Border Troops seized important amounts of drugs in 2022. Mr. Sulton stressed that the main threats are the activities of terrorist groups and drug trafficking, noting that the Republic of Tajikistan is working on strengthening border security through cooperation with interested parties as international organizations and Embassies are aware of the situation on the ground, and informed that Tajikistan received equipment, trainings and assistance in renovations.

Mr. Mitch Fifield

Permanent Representative of the Commonwealth of Australia to the United Nations in New York, recalled the country's commitment to counter-terrorism and addressing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters, which requires close engagement and sharing of intelligence with law enforcement partners as with the reopening of borders, terrorists can move from conflict zones back to their countries. Mr. Fifield recalled the strong counter-terrorism laws of the Commonwealth of Australia which are aimed at discouraging Australians from fighting in overseas conflicts, supporting terrorist organizations, and endangering their lives and the lives of others, foreign incursions and recruitment offences, support for, or association with terrorist organizations. He specified that the national counter-terrorism policies, capabilities, and legislation target criminality and violent extremism, and not communities, ethnicities and religions.

Mr. Rocco Messina

Chief of the Border Security Management (BSM) Unit of UNOCT, stressed that ensuring effective border security and management is essential for preventing and countering the flow of suspected terrorists and FTFs across land, air, and maritime borders, as well as the cross-border movement of licit and illicit cargo, including drugs, weapons, arms, and munitions that may be used for terrorist purposes. Mr. Messina warned that despite enhanced measures taken by Member States in recent years to strengthen border security capacities in this area vary widely in legislative, administrative and operational terms. In this regard, he noted the frequent lack of a coordinated border security and management strategy, inclusive of all the relevant actors at the national and regional levels. He added that often Member States that have BSM strategies in place should include the counter terrorism elements and warned that the absence of border security strategies that encompass the totality of border crossing points, including surveillance on land, air and sea, leads to Member States having a disjointed approach to addressing the movement of terrorists as they are not able to make full use of tools and methods such as control of travel documents, biometric border screening processes, and API/PNR. In that regard, Mr. Messina also recalled that UNCCT supports Member States in the development of strategies through its flagship Border Security and Management Programme, established in 2019 by providing comprehensive support to Member States and regional organizations to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in the pertinent Security Council resolutions, inter alia 2309 (2016), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019), and in the border security related recommendation provided by the CTED and GCTF.

Ms. Ivanka Spadina

Senior Immigration and Border Management Program Coordinator at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), recalled the organization's presence in over 100 States, and its role in facilitating regular migration as well as tackling irregular migration. Ms. Spadina recalled that IOM's Immigration and Border Management (IBM) Division supports States deals with the entry, stay and exit of individuals by covering identity management, travel documents, displacement tracking, migrations monitoring. She recalled that its IBM Division gathers evidence-based information from within the host country's perspective but also across borders, as each border is different. In addition, Ms. Spadina noted the very close cooperation with security forces through capacity building and provision of technical tools. She highlighted the complexity in implementation with requirements coming from all sides. In this regard, she observed that this is why IOM is promoting the IBM system which is based on a connection to INTERPOL and implementation of API/PNR databases to make them functional to be able to identify and stop suspicious individuals. In that regard, Ms. Spadina also stressed the related complexity of the investigations regarding transnational crime and terrorism and noted that risk assessment and modus operandi development are powerful tools in this regard.

Mr. Giorgi Beridze

Coordinator of the EU-funded Project Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA), recalled that the EU funded project Law Enforcements in Central Asia (LEICA) started in September 2020 and is implemented by the European Commission through the consortium including French Civipol and Slovak ISEMI, with INTERPOL being an official supporting partner. Mr. Beridze recalled that the overall objective of the LEICA project is to strengthen the law enforcement capacities in Central Asia in order to enhance security both at the national and regional levels, including by preventing and countering terrorist activity as well as violent extremism. He informed that the project aims to improve law enforcement responses to terrorism in Central Asian countries in compliance with international Human Rights standards and the Rule of Law. Mr. Beridze noted that during the first year of the LEICA implementation phase, 24 activities were implemented in Central Asia, 6 (amongst them 2 regional activities) activities in the Republic of Tajikistan in which 79 local officials participated. He noted that the activities organized cover countering terrorist financing, the illegal use of cryptocurrencies, the Darkweb, open-source intelligence training, hostage negotiations techniques, radicalization prevention and detection in prisons and society, judicial management of terrorism cases, conducting CT investigation, CBRN-E forensics and investigation of CBRN related cases as well as tactical medicine, among others. Regarding Border

Security and Management, Mr. Beridze recalled the programme's focus on training on behavioral profiling (ToT) which has been delivered in all five Central Asian countries, and which aims to strengthen capacities of law enforcement agencies to detect and intercept Foreign Terrorist Fighters, potential terrorists and dangerous extremists, and to respond to other crimes such as illicit trafficking in weapons and drugs, transnational crimes, and illegal migration.

Mr. Mulugeta Zewdie

Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in the Republic of Tajikistan, recalled that the number of people forced to flee due to persecution, conflict, violence, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order had reached more than 100 million for the first time on record. Mr. Zewdie noted many heartening expressions of compassion and solidarity in response to refugees and asylum seekers, but also divisive politics and xenophobia, amplified by uninformed discourse in the media and other public. He noted that these divisions also played out in current debates around threats related to terrorism and refugee flows. In this regard, he stressed that governments have legitimate concerns over security and cross-border movement, but they must also respect human rights norms and fulfill their obligations as per international human rights law, humanitarian law, and refugee law. Mr. Zewdie also shared his concern about threats resulting from terrorism and violent extremism. He noted that these threats are both a cause of displacement and a threat to asylum seekers, refugees, stateless persons, and other people whom UNHCR serves. He further noted that ensuring security and protecting refugees need to be understood as complementary goals through an integrated approach, as measures to ensure access to safety and protection for those in need, including those fleeing terror, can also help safeguard the security of transit and host countries and communities. Mr. Zewdie recalled that in 2007, UNHCR developed a 10 Point Plan on Refugee Protection and Mixed Migration, which provides practical suggestions, including on the management of entry systems. This plan was updated in 2016. In this regard, he recalled the capacity-building support provided to border guards through regular training for mid to senior-level border officials from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and OSCE participating States on International Refugee Law and Protection Principles through a partnership with OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC).

Ambassador Adel Adaileh

The representative of the **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)** underlined that States have the right to ensure border security, but that this right should be in line with human rights. In this regard, he noted that CICA aims to enhance security and economic growth by finding efficient measures to ensure safe transport corridors. He informed that the CICA Secretariat had conducted a number of workshops to promote its approach and confidence building measures and is promoting integration among Member States. Finally, the representative stated that CICA had also developed an action plan for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted in Astana in October 2022 and which will be followed by a number of activities related to implementation of the plan.

Ms. Sita Farrell

Director of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs within the US Department of State in the Republic of Tajikistan recalled the importance of border security and management which she said was relevant for economic development. She noted that ensuring border security should be for the benefit of people, through the support of BSM strategies and the promotion of cross-border cooperation, which includes intelligence and information exchange. The representative also highlighted the importance of the construction and equipping of border facilities. Referring to the situation in Afghanistan, she informed that two border outposts are under construction and are expected to be completed in the near future. Finally, the representative announced that further cooperation with the Tajik border services will be stepped up in the future which will help to complement efforts for the suppression of drug trade.

Mr. Antonio Alonso Marcos

Senior Lecturer at CEU San Pablo University in Madrid recalled that the EU measures to stop criminal and terrorist movements through a wide range of tools to identify who is crossing the borders – legally and illegally was not entirely successful as terrorists are constantly trying to bypass the system and find gaps. He reminded that ten years ago, cooperation did not exist in this area, and noted that the use of biometrics and interoperability of the systems were only

operational since June 2019. He outlined seven major illegal entry routes into the EU, and noted the importance of focusing on migration and social services to gather additional data. Mr. Marcos also noted that from 2020 to 2022, several countries such as Denmark, France, Norway and Sweden had established reinforced border control in order to better identify terrorist threats and movements. Finally, he reiterated that no State can be fully safe from terrorism, but that the re-establishment of border controls was a necessity in unusual circumstances and provided positive results in practice.

Mr. Masood Karimipour

Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recalled that individuals are radicalized across borders before becoming terrorists and foreign terrorist fighters. In this regard, he noted that preventive, inclusive terrorism prevention is more in line with a whole-of a society approach than relying exclusively on security measures, which is the approach taken by UNODC. He stressed that human rights cannot be sacrificed in the process. Mr. Karimipour recalled that over 1000 terrorists have been convicted in Central Asia so far, and in this regard reiterated the importance of prisoner classification, and engagement with those individuals and social reintegration. He recalled UNODC's focus on the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization in Kazakhstan, and informed that the focus on the topic will remain across Central Asia.

Mr. Ordukhan Gahramanzada

Designated Chairperson of the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization underlined that the role of youth in a whole of society engagement, international cooperation and information sharing are paramount. He stated that the effectiveness of international cooperation should be focused at both the individual and community level. He recalled the usefulness of the Baku Declaration, as its core principles include law enforcement, as well as legal and youth engagement. Finally, Mr. Gahramanzada recalled that key societal actors are vulnerable to terror narratives but can become actors in the fight against terrorism and focus on peaceful coexistence as well as mutual respect and understanding.

“ Balance must be sought between leaving borders open to facilitate cooperation, communication and trade and controlling trespassing that could threaten security and stability, such as traffickers of illicit goods and people”

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

SESSION IV

Strengthening Regional and International Cooperation on Border Security and Management in the Counter-Terrorism Context: The Way Forward

Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver

Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations, co-moderator of Session IV, stated that the activities of different terrorist groups in the last years show the growing importance of sound and effective border control in the overarching efforts against terrorism. He added that the fight against the financing of terrorism, with its different activities such as the illicit trafficking of weapons, persons or drugs or the movement of FTFs are clear examples that show the need for further international cooperation. He recalled that successful investigations and prosecutions of terrorist-related crimes are dependent on enabling frameworks, with supporting structures and operational plans that ensures a comprehensive and coordinated approach, with a national information gathering process involving all relevant national stakeholders as well as cooperation at the international level. Mr. Maraver underlined that comprehensive border security management entails international cooperation among States and their respective authorities, as well as cooperation at a national level involving inter-agency cooperation. He noted the importance of regional platforms of cooperation to address threats such as organized crime or terrorism, adding that Regional Centres for Border Cooperation with representatives from relevant parties of different countries can be a great asset in the fight against terrorism. Finally, he informed that the Kingdom of Spain and its law enforcement

agencies stand ready to continue working with relevant customs, intelligence and police agencies in Central Asia, as well as to explore ways to improve cooperation in the fight against terrorism in the framework of the GCTS.

Ms. Alena Kupchyna

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats within the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), recalled that the OSCE has a strong commitment to enhancing regional and international cooperation. Ms. Kupchyna added that the OSCE relies on its participating States and their national experts and partners, as they are the ones who know the “on-the-ground” situation best. Finally, she underlined that the OSCE stands ready to work with its partners and provide practical assistance, based on its mandate and use of its longstanding expertise.

Mr. Rahimzoda Ramazon Hamro

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, noted how much terrorist activity has risen in recent years, and how, due to too little attention paid to it, terrorist groups have managed to reorganize and gain access to new financial resources, information technology and ammunition. In this regard, he recalled that Tajikistan has faced terrorism and violent extremism since its independence. Affirming the need to step up efforts to counter terrorism without making it a one-sided approach, he acknowledged that the UN, while having included most terrorist organizations in its sanction lists, has yet to add several. Mr. Hamro noted how some terrorist groups exploit civil society for financial support and are able to use the Internet for propaganda and recruitment purposes. He also underlined how much international security today suffers from the critical situation in Afghanistan, which he said is a safe haven for terrorists and is currently home to more than 20 terrorist organizations. On the other hand, he noted that the Taliban do not reduce this threat, but added further pressure by spreading fear. He further emphasized that the Taliban are not representative of a significant part of the population, made up of ethnic minorities such as Hazaras, Tajiks and Uzbeks, and that they are depriving the population of education and contributing to its radicalization in madrassas, particularly in the north of the country. Finally, he observed that the Taliban also engaged terrorist organizations to expand their sphere of influence. In this regard he stressed that since the scope of such threat is not limited to Central Asia, it must rank first among the priorities of the international community.

Mr. Lenni Montiel

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Regional Representative for the Republic of Tajikistan, informed that with a 20-year experience of implementing successful programmes on Border Management in Central Asia and Afghanistan, such as BOMCA BOMNAF, UNDP Tajikistan continues to enhance border security and management in support of regional cooperation with a focus on institutional development of border agencies, cross border cooperation and trade facilitation. Mr. Montiel added that special attention is paid to the Tajik-Afghan border due to the unstable situation in Afghanistan and the vulnerable population living on both sides of the border. He informed that thanks to the generous support of the EU, the Government of Japan through JICA and the United Kingdom, UNDP Tajikistan has successfully implemented a number of Border Management initiatives on both sides of the Tajik-Afghan border, as well as on the northern borders of Afghanistan with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan since 2003. Mr. Montiel stated that in order to facilitate improved border management and prevent drug trafficking and other illegal activities, UNDP Tajikistan has constructed and equipped Border Crossing Points (BCP) along the Tajik-Afghan border, supported construction of the Canine centre in Dushanbe and enhanced the capacity of the Border Force and Drug Control Agency (DCA) staff on prevention of drug trafficking. Mr. Montiel informed that more than 900 Tajik officers and over 2,000 Afghan officers from border and customs agencies benefited from these trainings.

He also informed that UNDP had supported the construction and upgrade of the 2 Cross-Border markets, which provide trade opportunities and access to goods and necessities for local borderlands population, especially for women, who live in remote and geographically isolated regions. In this regard, he observed that more than one million residents (30% women) of border adjacent border communities on both sides of the border had benefitted from these markets. Reflecting on the spread of violent extremism in recent years and threats posed by terrorist groups and foreign terrorist fighters in Afghanistan, he reminded that UNDP attaches special importance to PVE across borders and at the regional level. Mr. Montiel highlighted some key lessons learned, which he said included open and systematic communication and information exchange among development partners as well as regular dialogue and liaison with the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in ensuring synergies and complementarity of interventions for the best results.

Ms. Christine Bradley

Chief of the Countering Terrorist Travel Section within the Special Projects and Innovation Branch of UNOCT, underscored the strategic importance of innovative measures and tools such as data exchange systems for the collection, analysis and sharing of travel information, including both API/PNR, biographical and biometric data, as well as AI, and other cutting-edge examples for advance detection and countering the threat of terrorists and serious criminals. Ms. Bradley noted that these innovative measures can equip Member States with capabilities to not only detect and identify security threats well in advance of their arrival, transit or departure to/through or from a territory but can also support the facilitation of travel and trade by enabling Member States to focus their resources to implement timely and more effective border security measures. In order to fully understand the strategic importance of adopting enhanced border security capabilities to fully comply with international obligations and restrict terrorist travel, she mentioned United Nations Security Council Resolution 2396 (2017) which requires Member States to develop and implement systems to collect biometric data and to develop watchlists or databases of known and suspected terrorists, including FTFs. She added that the resolution also obliges Member States to require airlines operating in their territories to provide API to the appropriate national authorities and to develop the capability to collect, process, and analyze PNR data.

Ms. Bradley informed recalled that API is an electronic communications system that collects biographical passenger data and basic flight details from airline carriers and transmits the data to border-security authorities in the destination country prior to the flight's arrival, giving border-security authorities additional time to perform sufficient checks of all in-bound passengers against relevant sanctions and watch lists while minimizing delays in the processing of inbound passengers. She informed that while many States have begun to develop API and PNR capabilities, many also continue to struggle with the coherent implementation of these highly complex and technical systems and frameworks. In this regard, Ms. Bradley presented the UN Countering Terrorist Travel Programme led by UNOCT, and implemented together with CTED, UNODC, ICAO, UNOICT, INTERPOL and IOM, which provides support to Member States in the holistic implementation of API and PNR systems. She added that the programme provides comprehensive, yet tailored support to Member States in the areas of legal and administrative assistance, development of operational capacity, transport industry engagement and technical capability through the deployment of the UN 'goTravel' software solution.

Dr. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh

Professor at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (Sciences Po Paris), presented lessons and good practices based on the 10-year review of the JPoA for implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Firstly, she stated that borders represent both risks and opportunities, and that the management of risks is better than an interdiction approach. She recalled that Central Asia has always been a land of crossroads, and today it is a region where there is a large flux of movement of populations and goods, licit and illicit, underscoring that borders have two contradictory functions: they create divisions and forge cooperation. Ms. Tadjbakhsh recalled that unmanned or porous borders create opportunities for trafficking of narcotics, which in turn supports and is supported by terrorist groups. In this regard, she noted that the effective policing of borders is hampered by geography, weak economy, deficiencies in intelligence collection and sharing, poorly trained and ill-equipped police and border personnel, among other things. Ms. Tadjbakhsh informed that border disputes can contribute to the radicalization of local populations whose grievances have not been heard, and this could give rise to general lawlessness which in turn could be exploited by traffickers of narcotics and arms. She recalled how until the mid-2010s, concerns were over the inflow of extremists from neighboring, unstable Afghanistan into Central Asia, and how today they have focused on the inflow of Central Asian fighters and FTFs coming from Central Asia into Afghanistan. In that regard, she noted that until recently the region saw a large outflow of migrant workers looking for employment, mostly in low skilled jobs in Russia, but that there is now reportedly a large inflow of Russians relocating to Central Asian cities.

Colonel Maris Domins

Regional Manager of the EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA), noted that the EU and Central Asia had held high-level political and security dialogues regularly since 2013. The Taliban takeover in August 2021 and the highly uncertain situation in the interim Afghan Government had prevented the participation of Afghanistan in the 10th Phase of the BOMCA Programme. Mr. Domins referred to Tajikistan as a frontline country with a substantial border with Afghanistan, and noted that the country plays a key role in regional border management cooperation, underscoring the need to further strengthen first-line border checks and border security risk analysis. He further described the focus of BOMCA's work on counter-terrorism and other transnational organised crime, noting that it provides guidance on how to improve awareness, knowledge and capacities of Central Asian States about the modern techniques in profiling and identification, developing intelligence gathering and risk analysis

systems, effective control of identity papers and travel documents, modern border screening processes, surveillance and investigation capacity, provision of specialized technical equipment, the use of new technologies, and targeted support to border management strategies and action plans. Significantly, he underlined that supporting the Governments of the Central Asian States in the development and updating of National IBM Strategies and Plans for their implementation remains a priority for the BOMCA program, as they allow for a thorough understanding of situations and risks at the national and regional level.

Dr. Aziza Hamidova

Country Programme Manager of the UN Women Programme Office in the Republic of Tajikistan, expressed how globally, UN Women works to ensure that policies and actions, including on BSM, are crafted with the aim of improving meaningful participation of women to respond to women's needs in a transformative and sustainable way. She added that the aim is to reach a point where every State institution responsible for border management is gender responsive and provides just, effective, equitable and accountable services to all. She stressed that more than ever, border management institutions deal with the increasing flow of migrants and refugees and need to address the consistent risk and threat of organized crime activity, trafficking and movement of individuals associated with violent extremism groups. In this regard, she noted that integrating a gender perspective into border security and management can have a significant impact on the ability of border officers to recognize and respond to the different needs and vulnerabilities of women, men, boys and girls. She further underscored how trafficking is deeply gendered in both manifestation and impact, and quoted UNODC's global report on trafficking in persons to state that girls and women account for 71% of identified trafficking victims globally and that they represent 96% of victims trafficked for sexual exploitation. In concluding, she highlighted a series of recommended policy measures for consideration, including the need for leaderships to take on some practical actions, such as making gender equality and the inclusion of women a corner stone of BSM policies; ensuring that gender and social inclusion analysis is undertaken and reviewed before a policy is developed and adopted; consulting diverse groups of partners while formulating a policy, but also while monitoring and evaluating its implementation; ensuring adequate and sustainable financing on gender equality and women's empowerment and finally providing women with more equal representation across the pillars of work of BSM to enhance engagement in decision-making.

INTERVENTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. Jesugo Felix Koonou

Director of Military Exercises / Defense Headquarters of the Republic of Benin noted with concern that violent extremism and terrorism have now spread across Western Africa, due to an alteration of the factors that exacerbate insecurity, such as poverty, unbalanced governments, and border porosity, from which Sahelian terrorist groups have benefited. He recalled that the Republic of Benin puts BSM at the heart of its Counter-Terrorism strategy, as well as efforts to promote a sense of belonging to local communities, and securing the borders with Niger, Nigeria, and Burkina Faso through joint special border police units, and strengthening identity controls.

Mr. Ernest Mosate

Director General of the Counter-Terrorism Analysis and Fusion Agency of the Republic of Botswana briefed on the country's achievements in this thematic area including the introduction of data protection legislation and a commission to ensure the protection of human rights while implementing BSM policies.

Mr. Le Van Tuyen

Deputy Director within the Department of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam recalled that his country has always condemned and fought against all acts and forms of terrorism, and supported anti-terrorism measures at the international level. He noted that Viet Nam also opposes activities that use counterterrorism to carry out personal intentions and interfere or threaten the internal affairs of other countries. Mr. Le Van Tuyen informed that Viet Nam has always improved the efficiency of international integration in defense and security, including international cooperation in counter-terrorism. He added that Viet Nam is a party to 16 out of 19 international conventions and protocols on counter terrorism, and in this regard, requested the United Nations to continue to support Member States to improve their counter-terrorism capacities by organizing intensive training courses and supporting new technology equipment.

Mr. Aiman Magzoub Salim Ahmed Ahmed

Legal Advisor from the Republic of Sudan noted that among the goals his country is aiming to achieve is cooperation between stakeholders and countries in the region as well as the adoption of mutual programs to develop and adopt policies and law enforcement measures on common borders.

Mr. Yalchin Rafiyev

Director of the International Security Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan highlighted that Azerbaijan had around 100,000 civilian casualties resulting from terrorist attacks and that there is a compelling need to suppress terrorist financing, noting that 60% of fundraising campaigns in Azerbaijan are used to finance illicit activities.

Mr. Samake Harouna

Ambassador of Mali in Tajikistan with residency in Moscow, representing the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Mali briefed on the nexus between terrorism and organized crime and its impact on security, cooperation and border control, stating the need to involve national and international actors and to implement forms of social governance. The representative noted that States' interests are at stake, as much as issues of equity, equality and development. To face emerging challenges in BSM, he informed that the Republic of Mali has adopted a national document on cross-border cooperation that focuses on repatriation, development of good strategies and on intervention of States of the subregion and of the African Union.

Mr. Chris Felton

Counsellor and Head of the United Kingdom's Counter Terrorism and Extremism Network in Asia, emphasized the importance of involving civil society in the process of BSM.

Mr. SM Anisul Haque

Mr. SM Anisul Haque, Ambassador, Director for International Relations and European Affairs of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Headquarters in Jeddah, delivered a statement on behalf of **H.E. Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Taha, Secretary General of the OIC.** He emphasized that 60% of all ongoing conflicts globally occur in the OIC countries. The Ambassador noted that the OIC has been at the forefront of the fight against terrorism and extremism through a series of initiatives making it one of the top priorities on its agenda. The OIC was among the first to formulate a clear and principal position adopting the Code of Conduct and the Convention on Combating International terrorism in 1994 and 1999 respectively. The Ambassador informed about IOC's Voice of Wisdom Center which is considered the organization's intellectual arm in its war against extremism and terrorism using social media and provides it with all the material and administrative facilities to undertake its tasks and activities.

Ms. Guzel Maitdinova

Doctor of Historical Sciences, Professor of the Department of Foreign Regional Studies and Foreign Policy of the Russian-Tajik (Slavonic) University, briefed the participants on the threats emanating from the territory of Afghanistan and proposed a set of measures to ensure security in the region, including efforts to counter terrorist groups on the territory of Afghanistan, measures to support the initiative of the President of Tajikistan to strengthen a "safety belt" around Afghanistan which will also include humanitarian help and assistance to the local communities and strengthening regional cooperation.

Closing Session

“ The OSCE will continue to provide our participating States with viable, hands-on and comprehensive solutions to current transnational threats and challenges that jeopardize the security of the OSCE region and beyond”.

Ms. Alena Kupchyna

Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, expressed satisfaction with the number of Conference participants representing Member States, international and regional organizations as well as civil society and the private sector, and who all came together to collectively discuss regional and international border security. He highlighted the importance of the four thematic sessions and side events and echoed his President, Mr. Emomali Rahmon’s message on the need for strengthening cooperation to deal with security threats to the region. In this regard, he highlighted his country’s success based on implementation of its national counter-terrorism strategies for 2016-2020 and 2021-2025. He also alluded to the importance of discussions on the four thematic sessions and side events. Mr. Muhridin expressed concern about the illicit trafficking of small arms and stressed the need to provide support for the proper equipping of

border agencies to tackle the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters in Central Asia and beyond. He called for enhanced international and regional cooperation against terrorism, extremism and their financing which are ever-evolving threats. Mr. Muhriddin underlined the added value of involving civil society in border management and security as well as more broadly in counter terrorism which he said can minimize and eradicate radicalization and called on the United Nations to engage young people in the fight against terrorism and extremism. He observed that cooperation should also take into account lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, the development of technologies and innovative tools based on biometric data and artificial intelligence for early detection and exchange of information on transboundary challenges. He also called on the international community to use all available tools to ensure stability in Afghanistan and to strengthen counter-terrorism operations in the country. Finally, Mr. Muhriddin stated his belief that the “Dushanbe Process” will contribute to further strengthening international and regional security and peace. He commended the United Nations, EU, OSCE, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their organization and support of the Conference and thanked participants for their attendance.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, recalled that many participants had stressed that the success of the Dushanbe Process and support from the countries of the region would help strengthen regional collaboration under the JPoA for the implementation of GCTS. In addition, Mr. Voronkov noted that several participants had also underlined the need for continuous donor support for its implementation. Mr. Voronkov stated that the Dushanbe Conference underscored the importance of border security and management cooperation in countering terrorism and preventing the movement of terrorists. He noted the concerns expressed by Conference participants over the spillover effect of the terrorist presence in Afghanistan, and underlined the importance of peace and stability on the ground based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of women and girls. He echoed the views of participants for the leveraging of regional and international cooperation to improve detection and to prevent the cross-border flow of foreign terrorist fighters, based upon proven border security measures, mechanisms and policies that work while at the same time complying with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law. He underlined that human rights-compliant, rule-of-law based and gender-responsive approaches are always at the core of all successful counter-terrorism efforts around the globe. In this regard, he noted that further efforts are needed to build regional and national capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters which must start with efforts on the national level. Mr. Voronkov also

recalled that UNOCT and UNRCCA had successfully launched the Counter Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia in June 2022, which aims to address the threats at national and regional levels from Afghanistan in a comprehensive manner by gathering the expertise of law enforcement agents, international and regional organizations as well as civil society and academia. He encouraged Member States to make use of the UNOCT/UNCCT Border Security and Management programme which has delivered extensive support to Central Asia, Africa and Southeast Asia as well as its Countering Terrorist Travel Programme. Mr. Voronkov reaffirmed the commitment of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its Border Management Working Group to supporting Central Asian States to strengthen their border control capacities and cross-border cooperation, including through the responsible use of new and emerging technologies. He informed that UNOCT had prioritized whole-of-society strategies in counter-terrorism, which is informed by the unique capabilities and insights from academia, civil society and the private sector, including women and youth-led groups. UNOCT had also strengthened its efforts to mainstream gender and human rights in its programming. Finally, Mr. Voronkov drew attention to the UN Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism launched by UNOCT last year, which includes targeted initiatives for Member States across the four pillars of the GCTS and which he noted is demonstrative of the coordinated counter-terrorism action undertaken by the UN system.

Annexes

ANNEX I

Annotated Programme



For the latest information about the programme, including key Conference documents, please visit our website:

<https://indico.un.org/event/1001382>

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18 October 2022

9:00–10:30	High-Level Opening Session
	Chair <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)
	Keynote Address <ul style="list-style-type: none">• His Excellency Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan (10 min)• His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General (video message) (3 min)
	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) (6 min)• His Excellency Mr. Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan (6 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Norov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Uzbekistan (6 min) • His Excellency Mr. Vepa Hajiyeu, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan (6 min) • His Excellency Dr. Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Counterterrorism and Mediation for Settlement of Disputes, State of Qatar (6 min) • Her Excellency Helga Schmid, Secretary General, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), (video message) (3 min) • Her Excellency Alena Kupchyna, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (3 min) • His Excellency Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President for the European Commission (video message) (3 min) • Her Excellency Ms. Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia (3 min) • His Excellency Mr. Waleed Abdulrahman Al Reshaidan, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Republic of Tajikistan (6 min) • Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (video message) (3 min) • Mr. Masood Karimipour, Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC (3 min) • 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 (6 min)
10:30–11:30	<p style="text-align: center;">Heads of Delegation Session</p> <p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Sirojiddin Muhriddin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (3 min) • Mr. Du Hangwei, Deputy Minister of Public Security, China (video message) • His Excellency Mr. Praveen Vashista, Additional Secretary (Counter Terrorism & Counter Radicalization Division), Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Government of India • His Excellency Mr. Hamad Almashaan, Assistant Foreign Minister for Development and International Cooperation Affairs, State of Kuwait • His Excellency Dr. Ali Al Nuaimi, Chair, Hedayah • His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for international anti-terrorist cooperation, Director of the Department on the Issues of New Challenges and Threats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation • His Excellency Mr. Salem Al Zaabi, Director of International Security Cooperation’s Department, UAE Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MOFAIC)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Vilma Thomas Ramirez, Director of Multilateral Political Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba • His Excellency Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations • His Excellency Mr. Mitch Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in New York • Mr. Christopher A. Landberg, Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator, US Bureau of Counterterrorism • Mr. Alexandre Zouev, Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Department of Peace Operations • His Excellency Mr. Ung Eang, Vice President of Secretariat of National Counter-Terrorism Committee, Kingdom of Cambodia • Mr. Stanislav Zas, Secretary General, Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) • Mr. Zhang Ming, Secretary-General, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) • Mr. Beketzhan Zhumakhanov, Deputy Chair of the Executive Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) • His Excellency Mr. Imran Haider, Ambassador of Pakistan to the Republic of Tajikistan
11:30 -12:00	Coffee Break
12:00 – 13:30	<p>THEMATIC SESSION I: Regional Border Security Challenges: Identifying Threats, Risks and Avenues for Improvement</p> <p>Co-Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director, UNOCT (5 min) • Her Excellency Ms. Vanessa Frazier, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta to the United Nations (5 min) <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Her Excellency Ms. Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia (6 min) • Mr. Ilaman Ilamanov, Deputy Chairman of the State Border Service of Turkmenistan (6 min) • Mr. Christopher A. Landberg, Acting Principal Deputy Coordinator, US Bureau of Counterterrorism (6 min) • Mr. Paddy Ginn, Senior Adviser, United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (6 min) • Mr. Pavel Tikhonov, Deputy Head, Major General, Anti-Terrorism Center, Commonwealth of Independent States (ATC CIS) (6 min) • Ms. Ashita Mittal, Regional Representative to Central Asia, UNODC (6 min) • Mr. Talgat Asetov, Expert of the ISIL (Da’esh)/Al-Qaida Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, United Nations Security Council (6 min) <p>Interventions from the Floor</p>

	Registered participants as inscribed on the speakers' list
	<p>Key issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This session will focus on an analysis of the current regional border security challenges in Central Asia and beyond, including the identification of threats and risks in the management of borders in the context of countering terrorism. Attention will be paid to key challenges at the national and regional level and how to, inter alia, strengthen effective information sharing among law enforcement and border management stakeholders consistent with domestic and international law. • The session will also include a discussion of potential linkages between transnational organized crime and terrorism and presentation of related instruments to address and counter them. • It will examine current trends in terrorist movements across borders and how these trends influence the threat landscape in different regions. • Participants will also look at the current trends of illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and explosives, and nuclear, chemical, biological, or radiological weapons and materials and potential linkages with terrorist organizations.
13:30-14:30	Lunch Break (for Heads of Delegations – 1st floor Building B; for other delegates – Tea House “Saodat”; Media – Hotel “Avesto”)
13:30-14:30	Side Event I: “The Role of National Border Management Strategies in the Counter-Terrorism Context” (UNOCT, OSCE, EU, BOMCA)
14:30-16:30	<p>Thematic Session II: The Phenomenon of FTFs and Its Implications for the Central Asian Region and Beyond and Addressing Related Border Security Funding Needs through the Support of the International Community</p> <p>Co-Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rahmon Yusuf Ahmadzod, General Prosecutor of the Republic of Tajikistan (5 min) • Mr. Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, Chief of the Policy, Knowledge Management and Coordination Branch, UNOCT (5 min)

Panellists

- **Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev**, Director of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (RATS SCO) (6 min)
- **His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Tarabrin**, Special Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation for International Anti-terrorist Cooperation, Director of the Department on the Issues of New Challenges and Threats of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (6 min)
- **Mr. Weixiong Chen**, Acting Executive Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) (6 min)
- **His Excellency Mr. Imran Haider**, Ambassador of Pakistan to Tajikistan (6 min)
- **Ms. Oguljeren Niyazberdiyeva**, Chief, Office of the Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) (6 min)
- **Mr. Masood Karimipour**, Chief of Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (6 min)
- **Ms. Rokeya Kabir**, Executive Director, “Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha” civil society organization (6 min)
- **Mr. Rajabzoda Nasimjon**, First Deputy Commander of the Border Troops, State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan (6 min)

Interventions from the Floor

Registered participants as inscribed on the speakers’ list

Key issues to be addressed:

- This session will examine current trends in the movement of FTFs and how to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter FTF flows in line with international human rights law and international humanitarian and refugee law, including through a gender and age perspective. It will also address the border security needs of the Central Asian States and how to leverage increased international support, including funding, to meet those needs.
- Are existing instruments sufficient to identify and effectively prevent the movement of FTFs? What can Member States, international and regional organizations, UN entities, and other stakeholders do to strengthen existing mechanisms and/or establish new ones, as appropriate?
- How can stakeholders promote and enhance the exchange of operational information regarding detection or movements of terrorists or terrorist networks, including FTFs with full respect for human rights?
- How can stakeholders ensure that relevant measures and instruments are implemented in compliance with human rights and in an age- and gender sensitive manner?
- What are the effective operational measures at the border for countering and preventing the travel of FTFs?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are international good practices and policies to build inter-agency cooperation, as well as effective investigative techniques and prosecutorial strategies in accordance with domestic and international law? • What are the current border security challenges confronting the Central Asian States and its implications on the threat landscape? • Are the current border security funding needs of Central Asian States being adequately resourced? What are the gaps? • How can the international community, including donor partners, better support these States in meeting their needs through the mobilization of additional resources?
16:30-17:30	Briefing on UNODC Integrated Border Management and Countering Terrorism Portfolio in Central Asia
18:30	Official Reception for Heads of Delegations to be hosted by His Excellency, Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (Kokhi Nauruz (1st floor) – by invitation only)

19 October 2022	
08:00-09:00	Side Event II: “Applying Behavioural Techniques for Securing Borders” (BI Hub, Doha, UNOCT)
08:00-09:00	Side Event III: “Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Central Asia – How the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism Facilitates Coordinated United Nations Action” (UN Entities)
09:00 – 11:00	Thematic Session III: Towards Effective Rule of Law Based Border Security Management Strategies and Whole-of-Society Solutions
	<p>Co-Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Eldor Aripov, First Deputy Secretary of the Security Council under the President of Uzbekistan (5 min) • Ms. Sezin Sinanoglu, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Tajikistan (5 min)
	<p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Tea Jaliashvili, Acting Head of Mission, OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe (6 min) • Mr. Khushvakht Kishvarsho Sulton, Deputy Commander of the Border Troops, State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan (6 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Mitch Fifield, Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations in New York (6 min) • Mr. Rocco Messina, Chief of Unit, Border Security Management, UNOCT (6 min) • Ms. Ivanka Spadina, Senior Immigration and Border Management Program Coordinator, International Organization for Migration (IOM) (6 min) • Mr. Giorgi Beridze, Coordinator of the EU-funded Project Law Enforcement in Central Asia (LEICA) (6 min) • Mr. Mulugeta Zewdie, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Representative in Tajikistan (6 min) <p>Interventions from the Floor Registered participants as inscribed on the speakers' list</p> <p>Key Issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the main features of effective, rule of law based and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism border security policies? Are there good examples of border management strategies which are aimed at preventing the movement of terrorists, including FTFs? • What are the existing technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives to supporting national stakeholders in implementing a whole-of-society approach? • How are Member States implementing the requirement to develop comprehensive and integrated national strategies to ensure an effective and holistic rule of law-based and human rights-compliant approach in countering terrorism in BSM? Are there good examples of effective border management strategies to prevent the movement of FTFs? • This session will also place emphasis on how to ensure gender-sensitive, human rights-compliant policies, humanitarian responsiveness, and how to improve engagement with civil society in BSM.
11.00-11.30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:30	<p>Thematic Session IV: Strengthening Regional and International Cooperation on Border Security and Management in the Counter-Terrorism Context: The Way Forward</p> <p>Co-Moderators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Agustín Santos Maraver, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Spain to the United Nations (5 min) • Her Excellency Alena Kupchyna, Co-ordinator of Activities to Address Transnational Threats, Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) (5 min) <p>Panellists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Rahimzoda Ramazon Hamro, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (6 min)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Leni Montiel, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Regional Representative for Tajikistan (6 min) • Ms. Christine Bradley, Chief, Countering Terrorist Travel Section, Special Projects and Innovation Branch, UNOCT (6 min) • Dr. Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, Professor at the Paris Institute of Political Studies (France) (6 min) • Colonel Maris Domins, Regional Manager of EU-funded Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA) (6 min) • Dr. Aziza Hamidova, Country Programme Manager, UN Women Programme Office in Tajikistan (6 min) <p>Interventions from the Floor Registered participants as inscribed on the speakers’ list</p> <p>Key Issues to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lessons learned from BSM capacity-building policies and programmes implemented at the national, regional, and global levels. • Responsible use of biometrics – its value for BSM in a demanding post-COVID-19 travel environment – balancing identity verification with effective data protection, rule of law and human rights, in particular the right to privacy. • Innovative measures and tools such as API/PNR, AI, and other cutting-edge examples for early detection, information exchange and countering the threat of terrorists and serious criminals – legal, technical, and operational aspects. • Best practices for enhancing cross-border cooperation, including through the establishment of regional informal working groups on API/PNR.
13:30-14:00	<p>Closing Session</p> <p>Co-Chairs and Concluding Remarks and Adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • His Excellency Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan (10 min) • Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) (10 min)
14:00	<p>Lunch Break (for Heads of Delegations – 1st floor Building B; for other delegates – Tea House “Saodat”; Media – Hotel “Avesto”)</p>

On 17 October at 17:00 hrs, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan held an art exhibition hosted by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Culture. This was followed by a reception for Conference participants in the Botanical Garden “Bogi Iram”.

On 18 October at 8:50 hrs there was a photo shoot organized for Heads of Delegations.

On 20 October the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan hosted a set of cultural activities/visits to historical sites for interested Conference participants.

ANNEX II

Statement of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon

Distinguished UN Under Secretary-General!

Dear Heads of Delegations!

Ladies and gentlemen!

I am pleased to welcome all of you to Tajikistan to participate in this important international conference on a topical issue of the current world.

Today's conference is the third high-level event organized by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), Qatar, Saudi Arabia and other international partners within the "Dushanbe Process on Counterterrorism".

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to the leadership of the earlier mentioned organizations and partner countries for their support in the process of arrangement of this conference.

I hope that this conference will facilitate comprehensive discussion of the issues of security, border management and effective resistance to extremism and terrorism, in particular, prevention of the movement of terrorists across the borders, and result in concrete decisions.

Dear participants!

It is obvious that over the years, the range of threats and challenges arising from terrorism and extremism has been steadily expanding. This destructive phenomenon causes terrible consequences, and the activities of terrorist and extremist organizations and groups are increasingly gaining transboundary and transnational nature.

Moreover, the rapid spread of the infectious disease of COVID-19 over the past two years and its consequences have made the process of countering these threats even more difficult, disrupted

the process of the 2030 Agenda implementation and achieving its sustainable development goals in various regions of the world.

Terrorist groups having abused this situation are expanding their extremist activities, recruiting more young people to their ranks, encouraging and committing terrorist attacks, including using information and communication technologies.

It is unfortunate that without understanding the real goals of extremist and terrorist organizations and groups, some mass media provide platforms or other opportunities to them for expressing the views of their leaders.

In our view, this approach is unconstructive and promotes destructive groups in the international community.

It is also worth noting that today, extremist and terrorist organizations and groups are extensively using advanced information technologies in the pursuit of their nefarious goals, and this issue should be the matter of serious attention and actions by the experts and the persons in charge. According to analysis and forecasts, such a situation will continue in the region and some countries of the world in the future, and the presence and activities of ISIS and Al-Qaeda will expand.

Therefore, there is a need to develop new innovative approaches to the joint counteraction to terrorism and the spread of the ideology of extremism and religious radicalism, including the use of modern technologies.

Dear attendees!

Tajikistan faced an imposed civil war and large-scale extremist and terrorist operations in its early years of independence.

Today we declare with full confidence that thanks to the unity and support of the people and the constructive policy of the Government, our country has escaped from the abyss of that tragedy, and therefore we would like to alert the world community about the danger and consequences of this extremely destructive phenomenon.

This is the very reason, Tajikistan has actively participated in all international efforts and activities aimed at eradicating this unfavorable phenomenon, and became one of the active participants in the international anti-terrorism community.

I am pleased to note that the gradual improvement of legislation and the implementation of national programs and strategies enabled us to lay foundation for a targeted and coordinated public policy to counter terrorism and extremism.

As part of the implementation of the National Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan on Countering Terrorism and Extremism for 2016-2020, the Government of the country, among other significant achievements, has also improved its mechanism for preventing extremism and strengthened the role of education and civil society.

The successful implementation of this document has created a favorable environment for the development and adoption of a new strategy for 2021-2025. A special secretariat has been created for the successful implementation of this strategy, and there is a Platform for cooperation between public implementing institutions and the international and civil society organizations.

The specific actions undertaken by the Government of Tajikistan resulted in returning more than 400 citizens of our country, mainly women and children from Syria and Iraq, as well as more than 5000 Tajik students from foreign religious education institutions with a view to avoiding their accession to terrorist and extremist groups.

Currently, we are continuing effective actions to rehabilitate them, and we feel the cooperation of development partners in this process.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

We have stressed on many occasions that Tajikistan is at the forefront of the fight against the threat of extremism and terrorism, and we are protecting not only the region, but also territories beyond from the catastrophic consequences of this phenomenon.

Given the difficult situation in the region, the Government of Tajikistan pays an utmost attention to the constant strengthening of the protection of the state border and takes necessary actions to prevent the cross-border transfer of terrorist fighters, drugs and weapon trafficking, and other transnational crimes.

With a view to improving the state border protection process, as early as in 2010, we adopted our National Border Management Strategy and its Action Plan on Border Protection System Reform to 2025 with the support of international partners.

It should be emphasized that under the current circumstances, the transfer of terrorist fighters from the war-torn areas of the Middle East to other regions and the strengthening of the positions of international terrorist organizations in Afghanistan poses a serious threat to the Central Asian states.

Imposing extremist ideas on the minds of young people and the existence of so-called international extremist and terrorist "silent groups" are among the serious threats to the security of the region.

Unfortunately, terrorism is still justified in various forms in some parts of the world and is imposed in the minds of selected groups under the slogans of extremist ideology.

In other words, terrorist movements involve a specific process of targeting, mental and physical preparation. In order to ensure the security of the region and the world, systematic prevention of such a process and its tragic consequences is among the extremely immediate measures we need to undertake.

We hope that the countries of the world will jointly lead effective counteraction to this unfavorable phenomenon and will succeed in preventing the movement of terrorists, their transfer from one region to another, understanding the factors provoking terrorism, as well as developing a common position on the definitions of extremism and terrorism.

Dear participants!

The terrorist groups continue their attempts to cross borders in the remote areas with geographical and climatic difficulties.

Taking into account the current security situation, the international community should understand that the extremism and terrorism with all its rude manifestations do not associate with any nationality, religion and citizenship.

In this regard, we need to understand that the constructive cooperation of the international community is the only main way to effective counteraction in order to eliminate the issue of terrorism.

It is obvious that the countries of the world, having coordinated the process of combating terrorism and extremism, made significant accomplishments in creating the relevant legal framework by the initiative of regional and international organizations. However, as time has shown, they are insufficient to adequately respond to all existing terrorist threats.

As the reports of the United Nations relevant agencies mention, this situation has arisen due to the lack of a unified approach and mutual understanding between the countries during the legal and definition screening of this dangerous phenomenon.

From this point of view, as long as all international actors do not define terrorism and extremism specifically and apply uniform approaches to combating them, it will be practically impossible to ensure the coordination of efforts of countries in the fight against this anti-human phenomenon.

Dear participants!

We have to recognize that a successful response to any adverse act is associated with an understanding of its content and limitations, its defining characteristics, causes and variety of measures taken.

Also, real and transparent cooperation in the fight against terrorism and extremism is important and in the interests of all parties to ensure the protection of borders, the constitutional order and the systemic development of states.

Tajikistan regards the reliable protection of its state border and finding opportunities to strengthen it as extremely important measure.

Tajikistan and Afghanistan have 1400 kilometers of border line with complicated mountainous terrain, which makes up about 60 percent of the borders of Central Asian countries with this country.

In such circumstances, we are taking necessary measures to strengthen the borders and over the past two years we have built and put into use more than 175 border facilities.

It is worth mentioning that at the same time the construction of 30 other facilities is going on, and we need to build another 300 of this kind of facilities in the future.

In this regard, urgent efforts would be important to implement the initiative of Tajikistan - the concept of "Security Belt" around Afghanistan in order to prevent and reduce the consequences of dangers and threats.

In order to prevent the activities of terrorists, it is necessary for the states to implement control measures in accordance with their commitments and within the framework of international law while protecting the borders.

Nowadays, we observe that terrorists and extremists make good use of the institution of "refugee" and "asylum seeker" and abuse the trust of advanced countries.

From this point of view, it is necessary to review the human values and human rights separately from terrorism and extremism, to not give shelter to those involved in terrorist acts and those, who are found guilty for such actions, and to arrest and prosecute such persons in time.

Ensuring reliable border security is extremely important to prevent the threat of terrorists and extremists through land, air and sea borders.

It should be emphasized that an effective fight against modern destructive phenomena requires taking collective measures.

Ensuring reliable border security is essential to prevent the threat of terrorists and extremists from penetrating land, air and sea borders.

It should be emphasized that an effective fight against modern destructive phenomena requires the adoption of collective measures.

To this end, the Republic of Tajikistan cooperates with a number of regional and international organizations, including the European Union, specialized agencies of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and donor countries such as Japan, the United States of America, China and Russia in implementation of various border control projects.

Given the rapid development of border control technologies, there is a need to provide border control agencies with modern technical means for the timely detection and suppression of attempts by terrorist and extremist groups intending to violate the state border system.

The implementation of this initiative requires studying the experience of developed countries and the gradual introduction of advanced international standards in state border management.

Therefore, ensuring reliable technical means in this area is deemed to be one of the main tasks of the international joint fight against terrorism.

I hope that the scope of Tajikistan's cooperation in this important area will further expand in the near future.

We need close cooperation based on existing mechanisms to raise awareness, knowledge and strengthen the capacity of states in the fight against terrorism.

With best wishes to all conference participants in exploring solutions to achieve a world free of terrorism and extremism, I would like to once again express my gratitude for your visit to Tajikistan.

I thank you for your attention!

ANNEX III

Video message of the United Nations Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, to the participants of the conference

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to greet this conference focused on the vital issue of border security and counterterrorism.

I commend the Republic of Tajikistan and our partners for promoting international cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism, including through the “Dushanbe process”.

The United Nations was established – to quote from the Charter itself – “to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours.”

Secure borders – managed in full respect of international refugee and human rights law – are essential to realizing this goal.

They are critical defences against diverse challenges, including illicit trafficking, organized crime, and the international movement of terrorists.

Transnational threats such as terrorism demand – by their very nature – coordinated solutions and multilateral cooperation.

And they require us to collectively look deeper to fully recognize and tackle the root causes and grievances that provide fertile ground for radicalisation.

The United Nations is committed to working hand in hand with you on this vital undertaking.

Together, let us strengthen peace, sustainable development and human rights in Central Asia and beyond.

I wish you fruitful discussions. Thank you.

ANNEX IV

Opening remarks by Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to this High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists.”

I would like to thank the President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon, for opening this Conference, together with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. António Guterres.

My words of deep gratitude go to the Government of Tajikistan for hosting and organizing this important event together with United Nations Office for Countering Terrorism, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

I am grateful to the State of Qatar for its continuous support to United Nations Office for Countering Terrorism, including the series of High-Level Conferences that we have organized since 2019. These Conferences help to sustain multilateral momentum on counter-terrorism.

I am thankful to the representatives of Member States, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia, who have travelled from all parts of the world to join us here today.

The broad representation from the international community in this Conference is impressive. Gathered here today are over 723 participants, including from 59 Member States, 12 Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Entities, 18 international and regional organizations, and 30 non-governmental organizations.

The active engagement by all stakeholders is a demonstration of the importance of our Conference focusing on the theme of “Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists.”

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

This Conference is taking place not just amidst the continuing turmoil in Afghanistan, but also growing geopolitical challenges and divides. The very fact of this conference is a testimony to the necessity of sustained multilateral cooperation in our collective fight against terrorism.

I commend the governments of Central Asia for their leadership and determination to work with the United Nations, as well as with regional and international partners, on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

In May 2018, the Government of Tajikistan, together with the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and the European Union, launched the “Dushanbe Process” during the first High-Level International Conference on “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism”.

A year later, in 2019, a Regional Conference, focused on international and regional cooperation on countering terrorism and its financing through illicit drug trafficking and organized crime, was organized in Dushanbe.

And in March of this year, we met in Tashkent where the foreign ministers of Central Asian States renewed their collective commitment to the updated Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Today’s Conference, which is our first joint event on border security issues, is a significant milestone in the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action in Central Asia, and a manifestation of the importance of regional cooperation.

It is also fitting that it is being held in Tajikistan, the country that pioneered and developed a National Border Management Strategy and accompanying Action Plan as early as 2010.

Border security and cooperation is an essential part of the international counter-terrorism legal framework. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and related Security Council resolutions call upon Member States to step up national efforts, as well as bilateral, sub-regional, regional, and international cooperation, to improve border and customs controls to prevent and detect the movement of terrorists.

The General Assembly and Security Council have also requested Member States to strengthen their efforts to curtail the threat posed by terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters, through the adoption of measures on border security and management, criminal justice, and information sharing, in compliance with domestic and international law.

My Office has two flagship programmes to support Member States in these efforts, one on Border Security Management and one on Countering Terrorist Travel. Both programmes will be featured during this Conference, along with other complementary and prominent initiatives implemented by our partners and co-organizers.

You will have a chance to hear more about these innovative initiatives and our counter-terrorism efforts during the three conference side events. Today at lunchtime we will have a side event on “Border Management Strategies”. And tomorrow morning two side events on the “United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter-Terrorism” and “Behavioural Techniques for Securing Borders”.

But the aim of this Conference is not only to present what we already know and have learned, but to look beyond the current challenges, to widen the horizon of our joint planning, and facilitate new avenues for collaboration.

Looking at the latest statistics from the International Civil Aviation Organization, world passenger traffic is expected to recover to 86% of pre-pandemic levels by the end of this year. If the global volume of air passengers continues to grow between 5 to 7% every year, it could reach 7.2 billion passengers by 2036. Once we add those traveling by sea, rail and road, we will witness a dramatic growth in global passenger numbers overall.

Not all these individuals will be bona fide travellers. We can therefore expect an increase in the movement of terrorists and transnational criminals.

Given these trends, we have no other choice but to strengthen our joint efforts to prevent and counter terrorism, including by sharing information on foreign terrorist fighters, and finding innovative solutions for enhanced border management to detect their travel.

It is for this reason that during its seventh biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June last year, the General Assembly urged Member States to enhance international cooperation between law enforcement organizations, specifically through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and to develop relevant response measures, in accordance with their domestic and international law obligations.

The seventh review resolution also welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations system and INTERPOL through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which is led by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, in preventing and countering terrorism.

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

To be effective, counter-terrorism measures must be in full compliance with the rule of law and international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international refugee law.

During the first United Nations High-Level Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism organized by my Office and the Government of Spain in Málaga this past May, participants emphasized the devastating impact of the misuse of counter-terrorism measures.

They underlined how violations of human rights play into the hands of terrorists as they seek to provoke heavy-handed and indiscriminate responses from security forces. Terrorists do this with the aim of undermining public confidence in the ability of governments to protect their own citizens.

Dear colleagues,

We also need to strengthen our prevention efforts by addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

I want to use this opportunity to highlight the plight of the thousands of children and women associated with Da'esh who remain stranded in camps in North-East Syria and Iraq who need to be repatriated by their countries of nationality.

In addition to the legal, human rights and humanitarian concerns, the detention of individuals under such circumstances exacerbates serious short-, medium- and long-term security threats.

I urge Member States present here today to continue and strengthen their repatriation efforts, and to ensure accountability for terrorist offenses, while providing child protection as well as rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees. President of Tajikistan, His Excellency Emomali Rahmon told us today about positive experience of Tajikistan in this regard.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Countering and preventing terrorism is a complex task, but we can succeed if we work together.

This Conference will help us to reflect on existing challenges, identify solutions, and chart a way forward to strengthen our cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists.

I look forward to a candid discussion on the challenges we are facing, and I wish you all fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.

ANNEX V

Closing remarks by Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov

Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honor to present the Co-Chair's summary for this High-Level Conference on "International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists," which concludes today.

My special words of gratitude to His Excellency, Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, for the generous hospitality provided by the Government of Tajikistan.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and his Ministry officials in Dushanbe and New York for their tireless efforts to make this Conference a success.

I thank my esteemed colleague 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; Her Excellency, Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary-General of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe; and Her Excellency, Ms. Terhi Hakala, European Union Special Representative for Central Asia, for having co-organized this event with my Office.

I am grateful to all our donors, especially the State of Qatar, whose generous contribution was important for the success of this Conference.

I am also appreciative of our distinguished speakers and over 720 participants for having shared their views and insights during this event.

Your engagement throughout this conference has greatly contributed to our fruitful deliberations.

It is equally important to note that we had four side-events during this Conference, including on border security, behavioral insights and resource mobilization, whose outcomes complemented our plenary discussions.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

A detailed report of this Conference will be issued by my Office in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and other co-organisers in November. Today, I would like to cover key summary conclusions of the Conference based on our discussions over the last two days.

This Conference is the first UNOCT high-level event on border security and management in Central Asia and is part of the continuing efforts by my Office to sustain multilateral cooperation on counter-terrorism. Its outcomes are relevant for all Member States around the world.

We can all agree that the choice of this Conference theme underscored, how critical border security and management cooperation is to countering terrorism and preventing the movement of terrorists.

Central Asian States recently reiterated, in the updated Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, their strong will to strengthen border management and cooperation to prevent terrorist travel. The Plan was adopted during the High-Level Conference in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in March 2022.

During our discussions over the last two days, Conference participants highlighted the importance of the “Dushanbe process” in the context of international counter-terrorism efforts. They also acknowledged the valuable contributions made through the three conferences of the Dushanbe process on Prevention of Violent Extremism in May 2018; on International and Regional Cooperation in May 2019, and our Border Security and Cooperation Conference during the last couple of days.

Many participants stressed that the success of the Dushanbe process and support from the countries of the region would help strengthen the regional collaboration process under the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism

Strategy (GCTS). Several participants also underline the need for continuous donor support for its implementation.

A number of participants highlighted the growing importance of border control as emphasized in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and during the 7th biannual Review of the Strategy which took place in 2020.

Developments in Afghanistan have heightened security concerns for countries in Central Asia and beyond, and have underlined the need for us to remain vigilant to prevent the threat of terrorism and violent extremism from spreading around the world.

Several conference participants highlighted the spillover effect of the terrorist presence in Afghanistan. They also underlined the importance of a peaceful and stable Afghanistan functioning based on the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of women and girls.

The President of Tajikistan also emphasized the need for “a safety belt around Afghanistan.”

Participants also discussed the border security challenges and needs of Central Asian States, identified current trends, threats and risks in border management, shared experiences, and identified avenues for improvements, including how to strengthen the sharing of information and good practices on a range of critical counter-terrorism issues.

We also learned from experts, front-line actors and stakeholders of the potential linkages between terrorism and transnational organized crime, including the illicit trafficking of small arms, conventional ammunition, as well as nuclear, chemical, radiological and biological weapons, and the need for concerted action in this regard.

Participants underlined the importance of leveraging regional and international cooperation to improve detection and prevent the cross-border flow of foreign terrorist fighters, based upon proven border security measures, mechanisms and policies that work and at the same time comply with international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee law.

Through this Conference, we have developed a better appreciation of the interconnected challenges and emerging trends in Central Asia, and how to collectively address them.

We also have a better grasp of the innovative approaches and solutions available to secure our borders and prevent the movement of terrorists in the region – ranging from the responsible use of biometrics, passenger data and artificial intelligence, to the application of behavioral insights and techniques.

At the same time, we discussed how policies and procedures on border security and management may raise a variety of human rights issues.

It was also noted by several participants that human rights-compliant, rule-of-law-based and gender-responsive approaches are always at the core of all successful counter-terrorism efforts around the globe.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is clear that despite the significant progress we have made in our fight against terrorism in Central Asia and beyond, much more is needed to build regional and national capacities to prevent the cross-border movement of terrorists, including foreign terrorist fighters.

It is also clear that while enhanced technologies and innovative tools are invaluable in our common fight against terrorism, the key to successful and effective border security and management is coordination at all levels – international, regional and national.

As underscored several times throughout this Conference, Member States must take ownership and step up their national efforts to improve border and customs controls to detect the movement of terrorists.

The importance of international cooperation and multilateralism was also emphasized by many participants as a critical instrument for strengthening border security and cooperation.

To respond to the latest challenges and support such regional cooperation, UNOCT and UNRCCA launched the Counter Terrorism Early Warning Network for Central Asia in June 2022. This initiative aims to address the threats at national and regional levels from Afghanistan in a comprehensive way by gathering the expertise of law enforcement agents, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia.

We also discussed the centrality of “comprehensive border security and management strategies” that take into account terrorist threats and address the need for coherent action among the many stakeholders at borders.

I encourage Member States to make use of the UNOCT/UNCCT Border Security and Management programme, which has delivered extensive support here in Central Asia, and in other priority regions such as in Africa and South East Asia.

We need to strengthen the collection, analysis, utilization and timely exchange of operational information to identify terrorism-related threats at our borders, including through effective screening against databases and watchlists.

In this regard, I wish to reiterate that the United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2178 and 2396 obligate all Member States to collect, process and analyze advance passenger information and passenger name record data, while being mindful of the right to privacy, as well as the risk of discriminatory profiling.

The United Nations can support you in these efforts. My Office’s flagship, All-of-UN initiative, the Countering Terrorist Travel Programme, can support you in building an operational unit equipped with the UN’s goTravel software to collect and analyse this data, backed by a strong legal framework and in partnership with the airlines.

I urge you to leverage the resources that are available.

We also need stronger collaboration to prevent terrorists from benefitting from transnational organized crime in the region, including through the illicit trafficking and use of small arms and light weapons.

The United Nations, through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and its Borders Management Working Group, remain committed to supporting Central Asian States to strengthen their border control capacities and cross-border cooperation, including through the responsible use of new and emerging technologies, in close cooperation with other partners in the region.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our deliberations over these past two days have further emphasized the need for comprehensive, integrated and whole-of-society strategies and approaches to strengthen border security in the context of counter-terrorism.

Partnerships that leverage unique entry-points, capabilities and insights from a cross-section of society and the private sector are essential to building resilience to terrorism, promoting human rights and gender equality, advancing sustainable development, and supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees.

They also increase the legitimacy of decision-making and accountability and enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of counter-terrorism laws and policies. It is equally important that these stakeholders have a safe space to express their views, without fear of reprisals, undue securitization or instrumentalization, especially of women.

This is why my Office has prioritized its engagement with academia, civil society, and the private sector, including women and youth-led groups, and has strengthened its efforts to mainstream gender and human rights in its programming.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Border Security and Management continues to be one of the most important priority areas of engagement for my Office.

Our technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives are aimed at supporting Member States, including Central Asia, to fully implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as relevant Security Council resolutions.

As this Conference has underscored, the provision of such support is contingent upon predictable and sustained funding to meet the border security-related challenges posed by terrorism.

I therefore take this opportunity to once again draw your attention to the United Nations Multi-Year Appeal for Counter Terrorism, which UNOCT launched last year.

The Multi-Year Appeal includes targeted initiatives for Member States, such as UNOCT/UNCCT flagship Border Security and Management Programme, Joint Plan of Action project and many others projects across all four pillars of the UN GCTS, and is demonstrative of the coordinated counter-terrorism action undertaken by the United Nations system, under the leadership of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Borders are the first and last lines of defense in confronting this common threat.

I urge Member States to continue working together to address the challenges posed by terrorism, including through the United Nations.

My Office is firmly committed to its strong and enduring partnership with all Member States and stakeholders represented here today.

We, the co-organisers of this Conference, look forward to our continued cooperation to curb terrorism in Central Asia, and around the world.

Thank you!

Opening Remarks of the OSCE Secretary General, H.E. Helga Maria Schmid

Your Excellency, President Rahmon,
Under-Secretary General Voronkov,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates and guests,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to this Conference on border security and counter terrorism. I regret that I could not join you in person.

I am grateful to the Government of Tajikistan for its warm hospitality and for inviting the OSCE, UNOCT, EU, and others to co-organize this timely event in Dushanbe.

At the recent Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, I had an opportunity to discuss the importance of our collective efforts to ensure effective border security and improve resilience to violent extremism and terrorism.

Our economies depend on open borders to facilitate trade, the movement of people and services. But borders also need to be secure enough to stem both current and emerging transnational threats.

In 2005, the OSCE committed to helping participating States achieve this balance between security and freedom of movement. We developed a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorism, manage borders and build modern, democratic and effective policing.

In recent years, cross-border and other security threats have become increasingly more complex, and challenges multiply at a dizzying pace. No State can tackle threats like transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings, terrorism or drug-trafficking alone. Greater co-operation both at regional and international levels is imperative.

The OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe is a tangible symbol of our Organization's commitment to regional co-operation. For many years, the College has brought together border officials from the OSCE participating States, as well as our Partners for Co-operation.

It has created networks, improved capacity to address challenges, and helped build trust across borders.

We have also been working closely with Tajikistan to help mitigate a range of challenges stemming from instability in Afghanistan. We are strengthening co-operation throughout Central Asia through our Framework for Action in Response to the Implications of Afghanistan for the OSCE Region.

As part of this framework, we are working to protect vulnerable targets against terrorist attacks. Next month we will hold a regional workshop on this topic in Tashkent together with INTERPOL and UN partners as well as representatives from all Central Asian States. Other OSCE initiatives contribute to improving the management of trans-border infrastructure and resources, such as electricity grids and transportation networks, which are vital for the security and wellbeing of people throughout the region.

And while countering immediate security threats, we must continue to focus on prevention and to address the root causes of terrorism and violent extremism.

Civil society and grassroots organizations, including those led by women and youth, should be seen as key partners in a whole-of-society approach. They are significant contributors to social cohesion. We also work closely with local communities as this contributes to more effective strategies and policies.

We also know that respect for and promotion of human rights and the rule of law are essential parts of an effective response against terrorism. And we emphasize these in all that we do.

In all of these endeavours, working with partners is paramount. Last month in New York, Mr Voronkov and I signed the updated UNOCT-OSCE Biennial Action plan, which will further enhance our co-operation, and enable us to more effectively collaborate. And this conference brings even more stakeholder together to ensure that we continue to build on these partnerships. Together – through local engagement, national, regional, and international cooperation – we can make a real difference and improve security for communities across the region and around the world.

The stakes are high. But our prospects are good if we work together. And that's exactly what this conference is designed to facilitate.

Thank you for your attention. I wish you a fruitful exchange and look forward to further co-operation.

ANNEX VII

Opening Remarks of the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs / Vice President of the European Commission, H.E. Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles

Mr. President, Ministers, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's event Border Security Management and Fight against Terrorism takes place in a very complex global and regional situation. Security challenges are affecting the European continent, affecting Central Asia and the world, all at the same time. We must enhance international and regional cooperation, as many issues cannot be addressed by any single country alone, certainly not.

In this regard, comprehensive and integrated border management is important for preventing and countering terrorism and other cross-border criminal activities.

Here the European Union we are keen to share our experience and our best practices with our Central Asian partners. The European Union does this precisely through concrete programmes like the "Border Management Programme for Central Asia" and the "Law Enforcement in Central Asia". Through them, the European Union contributes to stability and prosperity in the region. These are the key priorities of our Strategy on Central Asia.

To fight terrorism, a strong multilateral framework – with the United Nations at its core – remains something essential for all of us. The European Union will share its experience and its approach as co-chair of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum. An experience and approach that are fully compliant with human rights law, with humanitarian law, and with refugee law.

Allow me to also briefly refer to the recent outbreak of violent border clashes in the region of Central Asia. This is fundamentally detrimental to regional stability. The European Union has called on all parties to spare no effort to reach a sustainable solution, by peaceful and diplomatic means. In addition, the European Union has offered its support for confidence-building measures contributing to a peaceful solution and good neighbourly relations.

You can be sure that we will continue to provide active political support for stability and prosperity in the region. This remains the key priority of our long-term engagement with Central Asia, for the benefit of Central Asian countries and also certainly for our own benefit, for the benefit of Europe.

Thank you very much for your attention.

ANNEX VIII

Concluding Remarks of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan, H.E. Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin

Dear conference participants,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

The International High-Level Conference on the international and regional border security and management cooperation to counter terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists came to an end.

This conference, organized by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan jointly with the UN Counter-Terrorism Office, the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, was a logical continuation of the Dushanbe process to counter terrorism, which was launched in 2018 as part of the first Conference on Combating Terrorism and Violent Extremism jointly organized by us.

Participants acknowledged the contribution of the two previous Conferences within the framework of the Dushanbe process in advancing the agreed agenda in the context of combating security threats.

The theme of this Conference that we have chosen reflects the essence of ongoing processes in the field of security and the realities that we face on a regular basis.

Representatives of about 70 UN member states, as well as more than 20 international and regional organizations have participated in this forum.

In total, more than 900 high ranking officials, including politicians, scientists and experts from various regions of the world, representatives of international and regional organizations, UN Global Compact Counter-Terrorism entities, financial institutions, academia, civil society and the private sector came together for two days to discuss the pressing issues of ensuring border security in the context of the fight against terrorism and other global challenges.

It is gratifying to note the wide participation of representatives of the various agencies and bodies dealing with counter terrorism, border security and criminal justice of the UN member states in the work of the Conference. The necessary prerequisites were created for the further strengthening of international cooperation between relevant authorities in the fight against the threat to world security.

Ladies and gentlemen!

The start of the Conference was given by the opening ceremony, where the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon delivered a welcoming speech.

In his speech, the distinguished Mr. President conducted a comprehensive analysis of the international and regional security landscape, noting the current challenges that slow down the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The head of state expressed serious concern about the difficult military-political situation in neighboring Afghanistan.

In this regard, esteemed Emomali Rahmon called for the need to increase international and regional cooperation and to take the necessary coordinated response to security threats emanating from this country.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan once again drew the attention of the Conference participants to the initiative to create a "Security Belt" around Afghanistan.

It was emphasized that the Republic of Tajikistan has a successful experience in the implementation of the National Counter-Terrorism Strategies for the period 2016-2020 and 2021-2025.

Dear participants,

During the event, there were a session at the level of ministers and heads of counter-terrorism agencies of the UN member countries, as well as four thematic sessions:

First session: Regional Border Security Challenges: Identifying threats, risks and Avenues for Improvement.

Within the first session, an analysis was made of the current challenges to regional security in Central Asia and beyond. The key role of preventing arms trafficking, transnational crime and ensuring the exchange of information to combat the terrorist threat was noted.

Participants in particular stressed the need to reinforce cooperation at the regional and subregional levels in combating the changing trend in illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition and other weapons.

The need to facilitate effective assistance in providing technology and modern equipment to the border agencies to protect the border with Afghanistan was especially emphasized.

Second session: The phenomenon of foreign terrorists-fighters (FTFs) and its implications for the Central Asian Region and beyond and addressing related border security funding needs through the support of the international community.

The novelty of this topic lies in the mobilization of funds to strengthen border control and evaluate existing tools to detect foreign terrorist fighters.

During this thematic session, most of the speakers focused on the possible manifestations of the threats of terrorism and extremism emanating from Afghanistan.

Participants fully supported the thesis on the importance of taking joint coordinated measures to prevent the movement of terrorist and extremist groups.

It was stated that the strengthening of cooperation in order to effectively protect borders is fundamental in the fight against international terrorism and extremism.

Experts also noted a shift in the nature of the activities of international terrorist organizations in the tactics of carrying out propaganda work to build capacity through the recruitment of new members, the search for additional sources of funding, and conducting of explosive terrorist attacks with numerous victims.

Third session: Towards effective rule of law-based border security management strategies and whole of society solutions.

During this session, special attention was paid to the work done by states at the national level in combating the movement of terrorists and the implementation of effective border security

policies, as well as new approaches with the involvement of civil society in border management and security issues.

Fourth session: Strengthening regional and international cooperation on border security and management in the counter terrorism context: the way forward.

The relevance of this session lies in the fact that, given the lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic and the importance of the development of digital technologies in the issue of security, opportunities for capacity building, development of innovative tools for using biometrics and artificial intelligence for early detection, information exchange and countering the threat of terrorists and dangerous criminals; as well as expanding cross-border cooperation in building a unified approach in the fight against terrorism and the movement of foreign terrorist fighters were considered.

It is important to note that the above sessions were considered through the prism of international humanitarian law, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as the international refugees' law, taking into account the national legislation of countries and international instruments in the joint fight against the threats and challenges of the modern world.

Dear participants,

I would like to highlight the organization and successful holding of four side events on the margins of Conference dedicated to national border management strategies, behavioral tactics of border security and financial support for relevant anti-terrorist programs.

During the days of the Conference, an International Exhibition was also organized on the theme: "International and regional cooperation in the field of border security and management to combat terrorism and prevent the movement of terrorists."

Ladies and Gentlemen!

The tectonic shifts that have recently taken place in the architecture of international security, once again and with greater persistence, dictate the need to take adequate response measures to ensure peace and security.

Stabilization of the situation in Afghanistan is paramount in the issue of preventing the above-mentioned threats. The strengthening of the international terrorist groups positions, which have stepped up their activities, further exacerbates the security situation in this country.

The fight against terrorism by the international community requires immediate and joint action using all possible methods and tools.

The "Dushanbe process", being a sought-after format for constructive efforts, indicates that the ties between countries and international structures has reached a new, more effective level of interaction.

The current international Dushanbe Conference on countering terrorism and border security will certainly make a significant contribution to the process of capacity building and further promotion of mutually complementary initiatives within the framework of the "Dushanbe counter-terrorism process" on pressing and topical issues of ensuring international and regional security and strengthening peace.

I sincerely express my gratitude to all participants of the Conference for their active participation and significant contribution to the promotion of the Dushanbe counter-terrorism process's objectives. I would especially like to highlight the role and contribution of the organizers of the current Dushanbe Conference, in particular, the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the organization and successful holding of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention and I give the floor to the UN Under-Secretary-General, Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism Mr. Vladimir Voronkov.

Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists

On 18-19 October 2022, a High-Level Conference on International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

This Conference is in follow-up to the “Dushanbe Process” launched in May 2018, when the first UNOCT Regional Conference was convened in partnership with the Government of Tajikistan, the EU, and the OSCE, as a result of conducting the High-Level International Conference on “Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism” (Dushanbe, 3-4 May 2018) and the High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime” (Dushanbe, 16-17 May 2019).

Foreign Ministers and heads of delegations, as well as representatives of regional and international organizations, civil society actors, border security and criminal justice experts, other stakeholders, and the diplomatic missions accredited to the Republic of Tajikistan participated in the High-Level Conference, which concluded with the following Declaration:

We, the Heads of Delegation, high-level representatives of the states and international organizations represented at this High-Level Conference on “International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists”:

Underlining the importance of strengthening international, regional and bilateral cooperation to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including on information-sharing, border security, investigations, judicial processes, extradition, improving prevention and addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, preventing radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, developing and implementing risk assessments on returning and relocating foreign terrorist

fighters and their families, and prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration efforts, consistent with applicable international law, particularly United Nation's Charter;

Underscoring the importance of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, stressing the importance of cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and in this regard encouraging the full, equal and meaningful participation of women and youth in this process;

Reiterating the central and coordinating role of the United Nations in fostering multilateral efforts to prevent and counter terrorism, as well as in supporting Member States that hold primary responsibility to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

Reaffirming United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2396 (2017), and 2482 (2019) and subsequent principles and norms enshrined in international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and in other relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions;

Recalling the Tashkent Declaration adopted by Central Asian States at the conclusion of the International Conference on "Regional Cooperation among Central Asian Countries within the framework of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan on 3-4 March 2022;

Recalling also Dushanbe Declarations adopted within the "Dushanbe Process," pursuant to the High-Level Conference on "International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime" (Dushanbe, 16-17 May 2019) and the High-Level International Conference on "Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism" (Dushanbe, 3-4 May 2018) hosted by the Government of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations, OSCE, EU and other international partners;

Noting in this regard the activities of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism within the field presence in Ashgabat premises of the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia;

1. *Reaffirm our* commitment to cooperate, in accordance with obligations under international law, in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the movement of foreign terrorist fighters across our borders, through, *inter*

alia, enhanced border security and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies, taking into account gender and age dimensions, for returning and relocating foreign terrorist fighters and their families, underscoring in this regard the importance of a whole-of-government approach;

2. *Call on* the international community to strengthen border management, including by increasing awareness, training and capacity of relevant practitioners in border control, including with relevant organizations, to investigate and prosecute terrorists and terrorist groups and transnational organized criminals working with them, and to effectively identify and prevent their movement, in compliance with international law;
3. *Encourage* States to promote and strengthen border cooperation and regional and subregional coordination, as appropriate, through effective measures and enhanced exchange of information, consistent with domestic laws and regulations, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities;
4. *Underscore* the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit use of small arms and light weapons, conventional ammunition, and explosives, and chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials by terrorists, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients;
5. *Recognize the engagement of* the OSCE, the EU, United Nations entities, particularly UNOCT, as well as other Global Compact entities, and encourage them to pursue their efforts to provide technical assistance and capacity-building to Member States in a coherent and coordinated manner, in order to support them in strengthening their response to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters;
6. *Emphasize* the need to develop comprehensive and integrated national strategies and action plans, to ensure an effective and holistic, rule of law-based approach in countering terrorism in border security management (BSM) and in this regard, *highlight* the usefulness of improving the engagement with civil society in BSM;
7. *Underscore* the importance of integrating a gender perspective in preventing and countering terrorism, with the aim to increase the effectiveness of preventing and countering terrorism, as well as of border security and management.
8. *Commit* to strengthening multilateral and where appropriate regional dialogue and engagement to address challenges and priorities of common concern with consideration

to new and emerging threats, expanding international, regional and bilateral cooperation as a cornerstone for consolidating efforts to prevent and counter terrorism;

9. *Recall* that UNSC Resolutions 2178 and 2396 obligate Member States to collect, process and analyze Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data, in line with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards recommended practices and international human rights principles, and to ensure such data is used by and shared with all competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, which will help border law enforcement and security officials make connections between individuals associated to trans-national organized crime and terrorism, as well as to prevent terrorist travel and prosecute terrorism and organized crime;
10. *Underscore* further the importance of meaningful incorporation of review and oversight arrangements and mechanisms to ensure that efforts to counter the threat of foreign terrorist fighters are conducted in accordance with international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law and international refugee law;
11. *Emphasize* the importance of improving the use of international databases, such as those of INTERPOL, with known and suspected terrorists and criminals, and enhancing cooperation and information exchange at national, regional and international levels, in line with UNSC Resolutions 2178, 2396, and 2482;
12. *Express* our gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan for the excellent organization of this high-level Conference and the warm hospitality accorded and extend our appreciation to the United Nations, the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the State of Qatar and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their support to this Event;
13. *Request* the Republic of Tajikistan to submit the Declaration to the United Nations General Assembly and ensure its distribution among Member States.