



Pre-recorded remarks of

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**UNODC–EU–Canada High-level event on the 15th anniversary of the International
Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism**

12 December 2022

Vienna, Austria

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be part of this important event in what is the fifteenth year since the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (ICSANT) entered into force.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Canada and the European Union for co-hosting this momentous event. I am confident that our common efforts can bring us closer to universalization.

Since 2019, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), through its United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), has partnered with UNODC to jointly implement the project on Promoting Universalization and Effective Implementation of ICSANT, demonstrating our commitment to an “All-of-UN” approach to combat terrorism. I would also like to express my gratitude to the European Union as both our donor and partner in this endeavor.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Tajikistan ratified ICSANT in June 2022, thereby contributing to reinforcing the global nuclear security architecture. We are pleased that the ICSANT Project contributed to this ratification process, including through the organization of a National Advocacy Event with Tajikistan Parliamentarians in February 2021 to raise awareness on the Convention.

That same month, Tajikistan reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency that during a special operation, 133 pieces of nuclear material were seized from persons who planned to sell the materials either within the country or to buyers in Afghanistan.

This demonstrates that the development of robust regional coordination, legal frameworks and nuclear security detection capability within States and at borders are crucial to prevent, protect against and respond to the malevolent use of radiological and nuclear materials.

In October, Oman also ratified the Convention, bringing the number of ICSANT States Party to 120. However, we still need to continue working towards universalization and effective implementation of the Convention.

To this end, my Office is providing capacity-building assistance to requesting Member States in the area of combatting nuclear terrorism.

Support is provided through regional tabletop exercises and workshops focusing on building capacities to effectively prevent and respond to nuclear terrorism. These activities demonstrate the value for States to join the treaty and prevent and prohibit acts of nuclear terrorism.

Through effective cooperation and partnerships, UNOCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Responding to Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) terrorism aims to provide a collective response to the global challenge of nuclear terrorism.

Let me conclude by thanking all Member State representatives for their participation in this special event, acknowledging the importance of this key legal instrument.

We remain ready to support Member States within the framework of the ICSANT project and beyond.

Thank you