



Head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism participates in the High-Level Conference on Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism in Tajikistan

Dushanbe, 5 May 2018– Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov, Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism participated in the High-Level International Conference on “*Countering Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism*” on May 3-4, 2018. The conference was hosted by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the European Union (EU) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

The Conference was attended by representatives from more than 40 countries, including ministers and senior representatives of foreign ministries and other relevant bodies, as well as senior representatives of international organizations.

Participants discussed a wide range of themes including the theory and practice of countering terrorism, preventing violent extremism, regional cooperation and the challenges faced in implementing effective response to terrorism and violent extremism. They also shared good practices in preventing foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) threats.

In his statement, Mr. Voronkov commended the joint efforts of the Central Asian countries to defeat terrorism and prevent violent extremism. He further praised the collaboration between regional organizations and the countries in the region. “Today’s High-Level Conference is therefore a great opportunity for us to take stock and ensure that our policies are fit for purpose for the evolving challenges that we face. We also need to take practical steps to ensure that we are working closely to address the menace of terrorism,” he said.

“We all must remain vigilant to prevent ISIL taking root in other countries and regions around the world, including Central Asia. We know that ISIL is actively seeking to recruit and radicalize citizens of this region, especially young people,” stated Mr. Voronkov. “So there is an urgent need to strengthen international counter-terrorism cooperation at the global, regional and national levels, while respecting human rights and complying with international law,” he added.

Referring to the launch of the third phase of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, earlier this week in Ashgabat, Mr. Voronkov, underlined the importance of effectively implementing strategies at the regional level and the complementarity of various initiatives.

The Conference closed with the adoption of the Dushanbe Declaration reflecting the commitment of “the Republic of Tajikistan to submit a Declaration as the UN General Assembly document and distribute it to all UN Member States”.

During the visit, the Under-Secretary-General met with H.E. Mr Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan; H.E. Mr. Sirodjidin Aslov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan and other senior Government officials.

On the margins of the Conference, he met with Mr. Rashid Alimov, the Secretary-General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (CSO); Mr. Thomas Greminger, Secretary-General of OSCE; the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Hungary and Uzbekistan; H.E. Mr. Mubashar Javid Akbar, Minister of State for External Affairs of the Republic of India; H.E. Mr. Moutlaq bin Mojid Al-Qahtoni, Special Envoy of the State of Qatar; the Deputy Foreign Ministers of the Russian Federation and Afghanistan as well as a representative of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Mr. Voronkov discussed the evolving threat of terrorism and ways to enhance international cooperation to address it.

The Office of Counter-Terrorism was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of United Nations counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States.

For more information, please contact:

Ms. Gerard, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, New York, gerardl@un.org