



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

**Sixth Scientific and Practical Conference of the Regional Anti-Terrorist  
Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation**

**‘Combatting Terrorism - Cooperation Without Boundaries’**

**31 October 2018**

Mr. Chairman,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to start with words of gratitude to the Government of Uzbekistan for hospitality. It has been a while since I last visited Tashkent, in 1977, and I must confess that the city has become even more beautiful.

I would like to thank His Excellency Mr. Evgeny Sysoev, Executive Committee Director of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, for his kind invitation to me to address you today.

I would like to thank as well His Excellency Mr. Rashid Alimov, Secretary General of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, who is also my dearest friend.

I bring you the warm greetings of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. António Guterres, who has made countering terrorism one of his top priorities.

Dear Colleagues,

The key security threats of the twenty-first century are all not constrained by national boundaries - not only terrorism, but also climate change, nuclear proliferation, conflict, poverty and disease. But terrorism is particularly dangerous as it confronts modern civilization and leads to degradation of human morality and identity.

The threat from terrorism is increasingly complex and transnational. No country represented here today is immune from the threat. No country has all the answers on how to counter it.

fighters, often with their families, are on the move, returning home or relocating to old and new theatres of conflict.

While some may be disenchanted and ready to renounce violence, others are passing on expertise from the battlefield, recruiting new followers and planning and carrying out attacks.

is still trying to expand its presence in Afghanistan and the terrorist threat is perceived to be growing in neighbouring Central Asian states.

Terrorism transcends virtual as well as physical boundaries.

Today, the frontline against terrorism is increasingly in cyberspace - on Facebook, VKontakte, YouTube, Twitter and many other smaller digital platforms.

Terrorists are exploiting social media, encrypted communications and the dark web to spread propaganda, radicalize new followers and coordinate attacks.

The transnational nature of terrorism  
Nusra, the Eastern

Al-Qaida, Jabhat al-

As I know, the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is leading the way in facilitating the exchange of intelligence, implementing joint investigations and carrying out anti-terrorism exercises of Member States.

I am very grateful for the contribution of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to help deliver the first two phases of the Joint Plan of Action for the Implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia. I look forward to your continued support as we now deliver the third phase.

The Joint Plan of Action, the first regional initiative of its kind, has become an example to other regions about what can be achieved with collective action, leadership and political will.

We are also taking concrete steps to strengthen the cooperation between my Office and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.

I look forward to signing a joint Memorandum of Understanding soon.

My Office will also be collaborating with several Member States and regional organizations to deliver regional conferences on key thematic issues before the next United Nations High-level Conference in 2020. We are ready as well to discuss a possibility to organize such a conference in collaboration with RATS SCO.

I wish you all a productive conference!

Thank you for your attention.