

High-Level International Conference
“International and Regional Border Security and Management Cooperation
to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists”

Border protection and management in Central Asia continues to be hampered by porous border, insufficient resources and poor infrastructure.

Developments in neighbouring Afghanistan have also raised global concerns about the possibility of it becoming a safe haven for Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups with ties to the Central Asian region and beyond. Multiple reports suggest that ISIL-Khorasan Province has increased its presence in northern and eastern Afghanistan. This terrorist group includes fighters from Central Asia, who have reportedly increased activities in the north.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (or “CTED”) has for many years been engaged in constructive dialogue with the Governments of Central Asian States on their counter-terrorism efforts, under the policy guidance of the Committee and under the mandate of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Firstly, acting on behalf of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, we conduct expert assessments of States’ implementation of the relevant Council resolutions.

In view of the strategic importance of the Central Asian region in the fight against terrorism, some States of the region have been visited more than once. CTED has maintained a good counter-terrorism profile of these States.

Secondly, our technical expertise enables us to work on a broad spectrum of thematic issues. They include 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. Across all of these issues, we ensure that measures to be taken by States be human rights compliant and gender-sensitive.

Working closely with UNOCT and other UN partners, CTED has also led the national capacity-building consultations under the “All-of-UN” umbrella to Central Asian States on various aspects of counter-terrorism, such as denying terrorists’ access to small arms

and light weapons, increase the use of biometrics and introduce API/PNR systems to strengthen border control and management.

Third, CTED has an important role in facilitating the provision of technical assistance to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism. We do it based on our knowledge of Member States' implementation progress, shortfalls and new challenges from our engagements and assessment visits.

In this area, Central Asian Member States benefit from the Joint Plan of Action (JPoA) to implement the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was designed to ensure the delivery of tailored counter-terrorism

Many Central Asian States were among the first to respond and show their leadership in bringing their nationals back home from the conflict zones, particularly women and children. In doing so, they have often showcased the “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-

and outside the United Nations to achieve our common objective, which will be safer world, free from terrorism.

Thank you.