

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY



Statement of Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism

**High-Level side event to the
74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on:
“International and Regional Cooperation on Countering
Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug
Trafficking and Organized Crime**

Friday, 27 September 2019, 10 AM

His Excellency, Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda,
His Excellency, Mr. Sirojiddin Muhridin,
Distinguished Ministers and Deputy Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very grateful to the Government of Tajikistan for convening this high-level side-event.

I would also like to thank the Permanent Missions of Canada, Kazakhstan, Peru, Qatar, Spain, as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for their support.

My Office is privileged to enjoy strong partnerships with all these co-sponsors.

UNOCT was proud to collaborate with Tajikistan earlier this year in convening the High-Level Conference on Countering Terrorism and its Financing Through Illicit Drug Trafficking and last May.

It was the first event in a series of regional conferences organized by my Office, in partnership with Member States, to follow-up on the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States convened by Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in June 2018.

These regional conferences are preparing the ground for the Second High-

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we approach the seventh review of the United Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its implementation, we should remain focused on showing practical and visible progress and impact on the ground.

The landmark resolution 2462 on countering the financing of terrorism adopted by the Security Council in March this year specifically mandates my Office to enhance UN-wide coordination and capacity-building work on countering the financing of terrorism.

In response to the resolution, I have prioritized expanding our work in this area.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Center within my Office is a Centre of Excellence and a major provider of technical assistance to many countries around the world on a wide range of topics, including on countering the financing of terrorism.

The Center will launch early next year a multi-year global counter-terrorism financing programme based on four pillars: (i) awareness raising; (ii) national assessments; (iii) legislative frameworks; (iv) and operational capacity-building.

Human rights, gender mainstreaming and sustainability of impact will be cross-cutting priorities across these four pillars.

The programme will also include several thematic priorities, such as addressing targeted financial sanctions, protection of the non-profit sector, financial inclusion, partnerships with the private sector, and international cooperation.

To ensure efficient implementation of the programme, we will emphasize an -of- approach in our engagement with Member States and regional organizations, including FATF-style regional bodies.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Central Asia faces multiple challenges when it comes to counter

