



## UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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

**Side event on the Presentation of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan on Prevention of  
Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024**

**In the margins of the High-Level Regional Conference on “Foreign Terrorist Fighters –  
Addressing Current Challenges”**

**12 February 2020, Vienna**

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by thanking the Government of Turkmenistan for organizing this side event on its National Strategy on Prevention of Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism for 2020-2024.

I would like to congratulate Turkmenistan on the adoption of this document, which is a major “whole-of-society” achievement in countering terrorism and violent extremism.

This Strategy is the product of fruitful and effective cooperation between multiple Turkmen government bodies, the UN Office of Counterterrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA). We are proud of our engagement and support to the Government of Turkmenistan in the development of this Strategy.

I would also like to thank my colleague Ms. Natalia Gherman, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Central Asia and Head of the United Nations Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia, for this fruitful cooperation.

Last but not least, we are very grateful to the Russian Federation, Kazakhstan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for their generous financial support to the development of the National Strategy of Turkmenistan, as well as the Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Almost 10 years ago, Central Asia became a pioneer in cascading the principles of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the UN General assembly in 2006 down to the regional level through the Joint Plan of Action for Central Asia (JPoA).

Today, this Joint Plan of Action remains an effective regional mechanism for implementation of the Global Strategy and the promotion of regional counter-terrorism cooperation.

The fact that the National Strategy of Turkmenistan was developed, at its request, under the third phase of the Joint Plan of Action confirms the strategic importance and practical value of the Joint Plan.

We were pleased that representatives from 24 government bodies and public organizations participated in the elaboration of the National Strategy.

The Strategy incorporates elements of the 4 pillars of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner, recognizing the need for complementary and mutually reinforcing counterterrorism measures that comply with international standards, in particular international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law.

The Strategy integrates the recommendations made by our key partner, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), following its assessment mission in November 2017. And it also reflects related international, regional as well as UN best practice guidelines for national strategies.

The National Strategy will be implemented through a National Action Plan, and UNOCT is committed to providing support to the Government of Turkmenistan in its development as well.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

The third phase of the Joint Plan of Action is coming to its conclusion at the end of this year. It is time to look ahead and plan the next steps.

Let me seize this opportunity to invite the representatives of Central Asian states present in this room to consider what additional support my Office can avail the region towards the implementation of the UN Global Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

I hope the present regional Conference, as well as the previous ones — in Dushanbe, Minsk, Budapest and other countries—, provided valuable platforms to stimulate such discussions. I look forward to hearing your suggestions during the Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, which will take place on 1-2 July in New York.

I look forward to our fruitful collaboration going forward.

Thank you.