



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

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Innovative Practices in the Implementation of National Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism Policies: Examples from Kenya's Devolved PCVE Model & Kyrgyzstan's National Programme on Countering Extremism and Terrorism

**Opening Statement
21 June 2023**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a true privilege to help open this side event on innovative PCVE practices with representatives of the Governments of the Republic of Kenya and of the Kyrgyz Republic, and our co-organizers from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the United Nations Development Programme, and the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

I also would like to thank members of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate for joining us today.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and terrorism in various parts of the world, the General Assembly has repeatedly renewed its commitment to strengthening international cooperation to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

In particular, the General Assembly has encouraged Member States to embrace a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that takes into account specific regional and national circumstances.

In that regard, it is useful to learn from the efforts various Member States have taken to fulfill Security Council and General Assembly calls for developing and implementing regional and national counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism strategies.

In the case of Kenya's devolved PCVE Model, in which embodies the principle of subsidiarity, mobilizing the whole of society is considered the first step in tackling violent extremism in the country and the world at large.

To be successful, the fight against terrorism needs to begin with preventive measures. To this end, we commend the Kenyan Government for taking a comprehensive approach in developing initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism by bringing together key actors from the public and private sector – including civil society and religious leaders.

For their part, Central Asian Member States decided to implement the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy through a regional and national levels, including its first pillar on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. To that end, just this past March, the Kyrgyz Republic adopted its *second* Programme of the Cabinet of Ministers on Countering Extremism and Terrorism for 2023-2027.

The Programme is the result of a cohesive whole-of-society and multiagency approach to tackle the risks of extremism and terrorism linked to socio-economic, political, inter-ethnic and religious elements. For this purpose, the Kyrgyz Republic has developed a number of legal, economic, social, organizational, educational, and other measures to identify, study and prevent the spread of this threat.

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

The principles that should always guide our joint efforts in combating terrorism and violent extremism are those of tolerance, pluralism, respect for diversity, dialogue among civilizations, enhancement of interfaith and intercultural understanding and respect among peoples, all while ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

That is why UNOCT commends the way that Kenya and the Kyrgyz Republic have promoted “whole-of-society” and “whole-of-government” approaches in their national counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism policies.

We stand ready to assist in intensifying their implementation efforts.

I look forward to what promises to be a productive and insightful exchange.

Thank you.