

STATEMENT by ASHRAF EL NOUR DIRECTOR, IOM OFFICE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

through the extensive presence IOM enjoys in the field. We are appreciative of the fruitful collaboration with CTC and CTED, -and we are confident that it will continue for the years to come.

- From the migration perspective, Central Asia is a key region. IOM research¹ shows that the majority of migration in Central Asia is circular and for the purpose of labor. At least ten million Central Asian citizens are part of the migrant community at any given moment, constituting a staggering 25% of the total Central Asian population.

have been at risk of exploitation and human trafficking, and increasingly vulnerable to radicalization.

- To date, the risk factors which can foster violent extremism have had a relatively low impact within the region. In fact, the link between migrant vulnerabilities, lack of economic opportunities, and the potential for radicalization is highly nuanced and complex; IOM research shows that an array of socio-economic and ideological factors must be present before an individual may be willing to embrace and then act upon radical ideology. However, it is known that

- The other, highly complementary pillar of IOM assistance in Central Asia that is relevant to the topic in front of us today focuses on increasing capacities in border management. Keeping in mind the double role that borders play – facilitating the movement of *bona fide* travelers on the one hand, while preventing entry, transit and departure of illicit travelers and commodities on the other – IOM engages with governments at both strategic and operational levels.

- Our technical cooperation covers Advance Passenger Information Systems (API)², risk analysis³, document security, managing borders during migration crises (or humanitarian border management, as we call it in IOM)⁴, mainstreaming gender in border forces and enhancing cross-border collaboration between border agencies and border communities. IOM believes that technical assistance is effective only if it combines policy and strategy work with hands-on operational tools – trainings, standardized procedures, infrastructure and equipment. Sound border management system is key to internal security, and thus an essential component of a national counter-terrorism framework. The **Almaty Process on Refugee Protection and International Migration**, the only government-

by IOM and UNHCR), is able to elevate these issues to the regional level, enhancing regional cross-border cooperation but also a comprehensive approach to migration governance in the region.

□ **Finally** let me conclude by thanking once again the CTC and CTED for the opportunity to participate in this very interesting briefing continued collaboration and cooperation with all its partners on this important topic.

Thank you.