

**Statement by the delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan  
at the open briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee  
(2 July 2018, New York)**

*Mr. Chair,  
My fellow colleagues from Central Asian states,  
Dear participants,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

First of all, I would like to express our gratitude to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for organizing this Open briefing on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in Central Asia.

Recently, given the ongoing wars and conflicts, persisting interethnic and inter-religious contradictions in some parts of the world, as well as the growing migration processes, the threats of terrorism and extremism are turning into a problem of a global dimension.

Using modern achievements of information and communication technologies, the radical forces actively disseminate their ideas, brainwash people and recruit them to attend in armed conflicts and commit inhuman terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, young people become the main victims of extremist-terrorist propaganda.

That is why we believe that the fight for the minds and hearts of people, especially of the younger generation, is a decisive factor in opposing radicalism and terrorism.

*Mr. Chair,*

Let me briefly share with you the approaches of Uzbekistan on countering the extremist-terrorist threat and our experience in addressing the existing challenges.

**First**, today nor a single country or region is immune from the threats of radicalism and terrorism neither could counter it alone. Effective measures against such phenomena can be undertaken only by working together in the framework of practical cooperation at the regional and international levels.

Based on that, Uzbekistan actively participates in the activities of the United Nations, OSCE, Schanghai Cooperation Organization, CIS and other organizations aimed at countering the terrorist and extremist threat.

I would like to emphasize that thanks to the new political environment in Central Asia, the regional cooperation in countering cross-border challenges is being strengthened. For instance, following the results of the first Consultative Meeting of the Heads of Central Asian States held in Astana on 15 March this year, we agreed to strengthen the practical cooperation of law enforcement and intelligence agencies in countering the threats of terrorism, violent extremism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

Today we have already achieved concrete results of such regional cooperation among the Central Asian states, including Afghanistan.

**Second,** we are convinced that the use of only military means in combating radicalism and terrorism is not a solution to the problem. In general terms, such efforts are limited to tackling the consequences of challenges, rather than their root causes.

The main generator of radicalism, in our view, is the ideology of extremism and violence itself, which is based on

Uzbekistan invites the clergymen and scholars from Central Asia and other countries for cooperation with our educational and scientific institutions in their efforts to reveal deeply the essence of enlightened Islam.

We also call upon all our partners to jointly develop and promote within the United Nations a special **resolution of the General Assembly dedicated to «Enlightenment and Religious Tolerance»**.

The main goal of the document is to promote universal access to education, eliminate ignorance, promote tolerance and mutual respect, ensure religious freedom, protect the rights of believers, and prevent their discrimination.

**Third**, we believe that it is extremely important to ensure the conditions for the self-fulfillment of the youth, to strengthen specific social measures against the engagement of young people in the activities of radical and terrorist organizations.

In this context, I would like to emphasize on the efforts undertaken in Uzbekistan to increase the level of social protection of young people, assisting them in finding jobs, solving housing and other matters.

Uzbekistan stands

*Dear chairperson!*

Given the topic of today's discussion, I would like to inform you *about a recent **International Conference on the Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization Leading to Terrorism** held in Tashkent and Samarkand* under the auspices of the OSCE *on 11-12 June 2018.*

The youth of today's world is the largest generation in the whole history of mankind, numbering up to 2 billion people. These are the young people who will determine the future of our planet.

The young people reach their physical and social maturity earlier, they are distinguished by higher expectations and ambitions about themselves and those societies in which they live. Youth is a locomotive of social progress, its activities affect directly on the countries' sustainability.

Along with this, under the influence of social, political, economic and other problems, the certain radical views and beliefs can be formed more easily among the young people,



**Third**, effective response to the problems of violent extremism and terrorism should not be based on power methods only. The implementation of preventive mechanisms and proactive steps are much more effective to neutralize the growing challenges of violent extremism and terrorism;

**Fourth**, no state can stand alone against violent extremism and terrorism. These transnational threats to peace and stability need to be countered with the adequate multilateral efforts and intensified international cooperation in the sphere of countering radicalization of youth leading to terrorism;

In this context, it is important to develop international standards of youth policy, multilateral cooperation in the area of social support of the younger generation, protection of their rights and interests. In this regard, we believe that the initiative of the Republic of Uzbekistan on the adoption of the UN International Convention on the Rights of Youth is very important;

**Fifth**, youth organizations should play an active role in implementation of youth policy. It is necessary to create sustainable mechanisms for their involvement in a decision-making process and implementation of these decisions at all levels, including the international. It is also important to expand the rights and opportunities of young people, to increase their legal literacy and social activity, facilitate their employment;

**Sixth**, terrorism and violent extremism can not be associated with a particular religion. Our joint objective is to reach tolerance and harmony among beliefs as well as to fight against stereotypes, preconception and prejudice.

In conclusion, let me once again extend our sincere appreciation to the Counter-Terrorism Committee for conveying this Open briefing and express hope that report made by the participants will be taken into consideration in drafting the next Global Counter Terrorism Strategy for Central Asia.

Thank you for attention.