

KAZAKHSTAN

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STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN at the UNGA Sixth Committee's Inaugural Session (2-3 October 2017)

Mr. Chair,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Sixth Committee and assure you of the full cooperation of the delegation of Kazakhstan.

The Republic of Kazakhstan strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We also affirm that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, culture, civilization or ethnic group.

As we have heard in the course of this debate in this chamber and as reiterated by the numerous statements made by high-level delegations during the 72nd UNGA general debate last month, the need to effectively prevent and counter the scourge of terrorism remains a high priority for Member States. Terrorism respects no borders. In fact, our delegation would like to pay its respect to the victims of terrorism in countries as distinct as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Turkey, but also the US, France and the UK. Kazakhstan has also fallen victim of terrorist attacks orchestrated by a variety of groups in the recent past. No country is immune to the scourge of terrorism. In this regard, we join SG Guterres in his emphasis on the preventive approach.

Because terrorism knows no border, it is also important for all Member States to have a comprehensive, systematic and coordinated approach to their responses. We thus recognise the role of the UN in facilitating this coordination. We welcome the recent initiative of the SG to reform the UN counter-terrorism architecture by establishing a new Office of Counter-Terrorism, and we look forward to working closely with this new Office and with USG Vladimir Voronkov whom we congratulate for his new position.

Distinguished delegates,

We note with regret that more than 20 years of debates have not led to the conclusion of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT). While we hope that the work of the Working Group and an eventual UN international conference will facilitate the task of finalisation and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention, we would like to recognize the many achievements that have come out of the process so far. Despite their differences, Member States have come a long way in codifying and charting the way towards effectively fulfilling their collective responsibilities.

Although consensus eludes towards adoption of convention, but discussions have yielded three separate protocols that aim to tackle terrorism: *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted in 1997*; *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted in 1999*; and *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, adopted in 2005*. These join the 19 counter-terrorism international conventions in force. Kazakhstan has ratified 15.

Another notable achievement and manifestation of a global consensus has been the adoption in 2006 of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, with its four pillars and

comprehensive approach. While the primary responsibility to implement the Strategy remains with individual UN Member States, a regional and global approach has proven most beneficial.

In fact, Central Asia was the first region where a comprehensive and integrated Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the Global Strategy was elaborated and adopted in 2011. It was done with the support of the CTITF and the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (UNRCCA), and with the financial support of the European Union. Kazakhstan is proud to have contributed USD 300,000 this year for the implementation of this Joint Plan in Central Asia. Central Asian countries have through their cooperation on the Joint Plan of Action, collaborated on such issues as countering the financing of terrorism, enhancing border security, fostering dialogue with religious institutions and leaders and highlighting the role of the media in addressing terrorism and violent extremism.

Working towards the elimination of terrorism and preventing the radicalization of the youth also requires coordinated actions aimed at eradicating the causes that give rise to terrorism, measures such as facilitating employment growth and access to education, engaging the youth in skills development and fostering inter-ethnic and inter-religious dialogue, all measures that Kazakhstan is currently engaged in.

Kazakhstan is also gravely concerned about the emergence of radical terrorist groups in Afghanistan along the perimeter of the borders of Central Asia.

We stand for the widest implementation of multilateral instruments and mechanisms to stop the movement of FTFs, and shut down the channels for financial support of terrorist activities through the illegal trade in drugs, natural resources and cultural heritage artefacts and to counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes. For all these endeavors, we recognize that international commitment must be accompanied by strong regional cooperation and political will to comply with and implement all obligations that a country has signed up for. No country alone can be effective in its counter terrorism measures if it does not benefit from the collaboration of others.

While consensus has not been achieved yet on CCIT, we cannot roll back on the many achievements reached: We need to have the sufficient political will and put in force our commitments to comply with the commitments we have taken, work together towards common goals and hold each other responsible for full implementation and compliance.

It is with this in mind that Kazakhstan intends to start a process of consultation and awareness raising for the preparation of a Code of Conduct for the achievement of a terrorism-free world, as a political, voluntary document, which will reinvigorate our commitments so that we can reach a world without terrorism.

The process of consultation we will start now will determine the principles that will be included in the Code of Conduct that like-minded countries will agree to. These commitments will together chart our collective responsibilities and contributions towards defeating and preventing international terrorism. The Code of Conduct, ultimately, will focus on what we have in common and our collective responsibility towards compliance to international instruments we have agreed to as opposed to what divides us. It will forge a global partnership for the prevention of terrorism based on the principles of good will and understanding of common interests.

We look forward to working with Member States on the elaboration of the draft of the Code of Conduct. Our goal is to raise collective awareness and responsibility towards a world free of terrorism. **I thank you.**