

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF KAZAKHSTAN
Six Committee, 73st session of the United Nations General Assembly
Agenda Item 111. Measures to eliminate international terrorism
(4 October 2018, New York)

Mr. Chair,

First of all, let me congratulate Gabon for assuming the stewardship of the Sixth Committee of the 73rd session of the General Assembly, and wish the members of the Bureau every success in the complex tasks ahead of them. I would also acknowledge with appreciation the effective leadership of the Sixth Committee by Singapore during the previous 72nd session.

Kazakhstan is deeply committed to the work of the United Nations and its system for all its measures to counter terrorism. We thank USG Voronkov for hosting the first High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States under the initiative of Secretary-General Guterres. Finland and Jordan have played a significant role in facilitate of the Sixth Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (*GCTS*). We acknowledge the important role of the Committee on Counter Terrorism under the capable leadership of the H.E. Gustavo Meza-Cuadra which has seen many strides. We also commend the very significant work of CTED, steered by Madame Michelle Coninx, providing invaluable capacity building to Member States.

Our challenge today is to combat the changing tactics of ISIL and Al-Qaida, in the absence of a Caliphate, which can be described as low-cost, localized terrorism, emerging as autonomous jihad, perhaps even more deadly, promoted locally by its supporters. The problem is further compounded by foreign terrorist fighters. In the face of these grave threats, Kazakhstan calls on all parties to make every effort to consolidate international, regional and national counter-terrorism networks.

Thus, fighting terrorism is one of the key domestic and foreign policy priorities. Central Asia constitutes a potential target by terrorist groups, coming from the north of Afghanistan, due to the inflow of militants from Syria and Iraq. We are fighting the spread of terrorist ideology and radicalization of our vulnerable segments through social media and the dark web.

At the regional level, Kazakhstan actively carries out the Joint Plan of Action for the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, by addressing all of its four pillars. The third phase of the regional Joint Plan of Action for implementing UN *GCTS* in Central Asia was successfully launched by the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia (*UNRCCA*), the Office of Counter-Terrorism and CTED in May 2017 in Ashgabat. Kazakhstan was the first country to provide financial support for the Strategy's activities. One of the first events was a workshop, titled "Addressing conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and terrorism", organized by the UNRCCA and the Office of Counter-Terrorism in Astana in May 2018.

CTED experts visited Astana in May 2016, its recommendations for improving national counter terrorism activities are now being executed. In March 2018 Kazakhstan

adopted the State Programme for Countering Religious Extremism and Terrorism for the period 2018-2022, which fully aligns itself with UN GCTS. Kazakhstan will more than quadruple its budget to \$837 million in the next five years to fight terrorism and extremism, through fostering a “tolerant religious consciousness” and zero tolerance for radical ideologies across the population. The focus is not just on eradicating religious extremism and terrorism, but to strengthen national security structures and improve the legislative and organizational framework for identifying and combating religious extremism and terrorism. Likewise, the legal norms in the sphere of arms trade and regulation of migration have been updated, and measures of criminal punishment toughened. Kazakhstan has ratified 16 of the 19 universal legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts.

Our law enforcement agencies cooperate closely with the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre, SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure, CSTO and the offices of the UNODC, INTERPOL, OSCE, the European Union, AU, OIC and the League of Arab States in strengthening regional cooperation. This collaboration should include the exchange of intelligence and information, enhancing early warning signals, harmonization of legislation, stricter border and customs controls, capacity building and other practical joint measures. We need a common understanding of the "terrorism" term as the absence of it leads to evasion of justice, and hence the urgency to conclude the CCIT.

At the 70th Session of the General Assembly in September 2015, and again in his Policy Address marking the beginning of Kazakhstan’s non-permanent membership to the UN Security Council in January 2017, H.E. President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan invited UN Member States to create a coalition that could take significant steps towards the achievement of a terrorism-free world. In this context, our country had proposed to adopt the Code of Conduct, with a view to effect closer coordination to fight this evil. With detailed rounds of consultations, the Code was finalized. It was launched and opened for signature on 28 September 2018, during the High-Level Special Event. More 70 countries signed up.

We would like to express our warm appreciation for countries that have already joined the process, and encourage all other UN Member States and Observers to also become signatories of the Code. This concerted effort will help to eliminate international terrorism through a strong political will, to halt the co-related activities of drug trafficking, illegal trade of natural resources and cultural artifacts, as well as, the use of new technologies and payment modalities. These are not just main sources of financing terrorism but used as tools and weapons. The time is now to combine all our synergies to block all sources, protect critical infrastructure and exchange of biometric information on terrorists between regional and international databases. It is necessary to obtain timely information about groups and individuals with destructive intentions, enhance best practices and forensics, and fight terrorist ideas on Internet and in cyber space to prevent self-radicalization.

Kazakhstan is committed to every possible multilateral action and will join others in the relentless effort for a safe and secure world.

Thank you.