

15-17 May 2019 Dushanbe, Tajikistan

International and Regional Cooperation on Countering Terrorism and its Financing through Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime

The conference aimed to strengthen the efforts of the international community to promote regional cooperation, identify effective practices to prevent and disrupt terrorism financing and create a forum for expert discussion on how to respond to evolving methods used by terrorist and terrorist organizations to fund their activities and structures. The event served as a platform to deliberate complex and multidimensional challenges faced by Member States and facilitated the exchange of experience, lessons learnt and good practices in countering terrorism financing.

The conference concluded with a declaration emphasizing that “illicit drug trafficking continues to pose one of the major threats to international peace and security and undermine sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law”. It calls upon “all States to promote and strengthen international co-operation in accordance with all their obligations under international law”. Through the adoption by consensus of the “Dushanbe Declaration”, now an official document of the General Assembly, the conference reinforced counter-terrorism cooperation in Central Asia. The outcome of the Dushanbe conference will contribute to the second High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism planned for June 2020 in New York.

The Dushanbe Conference was the first UNOCT Regional Conference in a series of follow-up events to the first High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism that was convened in June 2018 in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres. It was jointly convened by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan in cooperation with the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

20-21 June 2019, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

Whole-of-Society-Approach to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism

The Ulaanbaatar Conference has been an opportunity to exchange good practices and lessons learned in tackling violent extremism in the OSCE region and beyond. It aimed for policy makers, civil society and other relevant actors from across Asia and beyond to engage in an inter-regional dialogue promoting the development and implementation of effective, human rights-compliant and gender-sensitive strategies and policies to preventing and countering violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism.

The conference thematic focus facilitated a discussion about the importance of governments working with civil society, youth, religious and local community actors. The conference participants explored ways to find local solutions rooted in international human rights to prevent the emergence of violent extremism as well as to protect communities from terrorist recruitment.

The importance of these themes is reflected in several General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. General Assembly resolution 72/284 for the Sixth Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy recognised the role that civil society organisations, religious groups and community leaders can play in confronting the challenges of recruitment and radicalization to terrorism, including by promoting tolerance. It also underscored the importance of empowering youth, noting that children may be especially vulnerable to radicalization to violence. The Security Council in its resolution 2395 welcomed the role of relevant civil society, youth, and locally-focused actors in preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

The Ulaanbaatar Conference was the second UNOCT Regional Conference in a series of follow-up events to the first High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism that was convened in June 2018 in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres. It was convened by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Counter-Terrorism Coordination Council of Mongolia in collaboration with the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

10-11 July 2019 in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya

African Regional High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism



UN Secretary-General António Guterres and UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Vladimir Voronkov participate in the African Regional High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Prevention of Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, jointly convened by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Republic of Kenya. Photo: UNIC Kenya

This Regional High-level Conference enables African countries to share their experiences, good practices and lessons learned in tackling terrorism and violent extremism, including by adopting comprehensive and inclusive whole-of-society approaches. It is also an opportunity to discuss new initiatives to enhance counter-terrorism and prevention efforts across the continent, especially in the regions of Africa most challenged by terrorist violence and instability.

This conference is the third in a series of regional conferences that follow-up on the first UN High-level Conference for Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in New York in June 2018. These conferences are taking place around the world, at the initiative of Member States, to strengthen regional cooperation on common counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism priorities.

3-4 September, Minsk, Belarus

Countering Terrorism Through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies

The International High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism “Countering terrorism through innovative approaches and the use of new and emerging technologies” co-organized by the Republic of Belarus and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), takes place 3-4 September 2019 in Minsk, Belarus.

The conference is an opportunity to take stock of the fast-evolving threat from terrorist misuse of new and emerging technologies and identify innovative approaches to address these challenges. It will bring together Member States, the private sector, NGOs and civil society, in seeking to address today’s most pressing issues pertaining to technology and counter-terrorism, including online radicalization, artificial intelligence, hacking, lethal autonomous weapons and the cross-border travel of foreign terrorist fighters.

The three main themes are:

- The Nature of Threat: Misuse of New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence by Terrorists
- Innovative Use of New Technologies to Strengthen Detection Capacity
- Development of National, Regional and International Approaches and Strategies to Address the Misuse of New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence by Terrorists

This conference is the fourth in a series of regional conferences that follow-up on the first United Nations High-Level Conference for Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States held in New York in June 2018. These conferences are taking place around the world, at the initiative of Member States, to strengthen regional cooperation on common counter-terrorism and preventing violent extremism priorities.

Co-chairs Summary and more

- [Co-chairs Summary \(download PDF\)](#) of the International High-level Conference on Countering Terrorism through Innovative Approaches and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies - Delivered by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Minsk, 4 September.
- Statement by Mr. Voronkov at the High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and the Use of New and Emerging Technologies, Minsk, Belarus – [Russian \(download PDF\)](#)
- Press Release: [High-level Conference on Countering Terrorism and the Use of New Technologies starts in Minsk \(download PDF\)](#)
- Press release closing conference [English \(download PDF\)](#) – [Russian \(download PDF\)](#)
- [Photo coverage](#) by UN Information Centre in Belarus

7-8 November 2019 in Budapest, Republic of Hungary

Prevention of Radicalization to Terrorism: Regional Policy Responses and Risk Mitigation

The Regional Conference on “Prevention of Radicalization to Terrorism: Regional Policy Responses and Risk Mitigation”, co-organized by the Government of Hungary and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), will take place on 7-8 November 2019 in Budapest, Hungary.

The Conference will serve as an opportunity to examine strategies in countering violent extremist narratives that could incite terrorist acts, and address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism. It will bring together around 145 participants including Member States from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and China, international and regional organizations, UN agencies, NGOs and civil society to share practical experiences and best practices on key thematic areas.

The three main themes of the conference are:

- Addressing terrorist narratives through preventive strategies
- Assessing and mitigating the risks posed by returning foreign terrorist fighters
- Engaging youth in preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism

This Conference is the fifth in a series of regional conferences that follow-up on the first [United Nations High-Level Conference for Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States](#) held in New York in June 2018, which was convened by Secretary-General [Antonio Guterres](#) to strengthen international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism. UNOCT is partnering with Member States in different regions to co-organize these conferences which aim to strengthen regional cooperation on common priorities to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Key documents

- Keynote Address by UNOCT Under-Secretary-General Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
- Press release opening conference and signing of a Host Country Agreement establishing in Budapest a UNOCT Regional Programme Support Office
- Press release closing
- Co-chairs Summary

United Arab Emirates



Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT Vladimir Voronkov (second from the left) participates in the Joint United Nations – United Arab Emirates Regional Conference for the Arab League Countries on Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism. Photo: UNOCT.

"I hope this Conference provides a platform to identify ways and opportunities to strengthen cooperation among Arab League Member States and explore how we, at the United Nations, can further support you in empowering youth and promoting tolerance as a part of your prevention efforts."

-- Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Vladimir Voronkov in [remarks \(download PDF\)](#) at the Joint United Nations – United Arab Emirates Regional Conference.

Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Countering Terrorist Radicalization and Terrorism

The joint United Arab Emirates-UNOCT-Hedayah Regional High-Level Conference on “Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism” will be held in Abu Dhabi on December 18-19, 2019.

The conference will provide an opportunity to discuss initiatives and action plans to strengthen resilience against radicalization leading to terrorism, with a focus on youth empowerment and tolerance at the national and regional levels.

It will bring together over 300 representatives from League of Arab States countries, including several from Africa, Asia, the Americas, and Europe, as well as civil society organizations, youth representatives, religious and interfaith actors, and leading think tanks to exchange views and share experiences from the Middle East and North Africa region.

Conference sessions

The Conference will have three main sessions:

- High-Level Panel on Empowering Youth for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism (PCVE)
- High-Level Panel on Promoting Tolerance for PCVE
- Youth Circle on “Enhancing partnerships between governments, youth, community and religious actors to promote the values of tolerance and strengthen resilience to terrorist narratives.”

In addition, a one-day workshop led by regional and international civil society organizations will be held on December 17. This workshop will enable grassroots actors to exchange views on the conference's agenda, with a focus on youth, community engagement, empowerment, and resilience. The substance of their discussions will feed into the larger regional conference.

Background of the conference

This conference is the sixth in a series of [regional conferences](#) to be held around the [UN High-Level Conference for Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States](#), which was first convened in New York in June 2018 by [Secretary-General Antonio Guterres](#) to strengthen international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism. The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism is partnering with Member States in different regions to co-organize these conferences, which aim to strengthen regional counterterror cooperation and prevent violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Documents

- [Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, at the Civil Society Workshop in advance of the Abu Dhabi Regional Conference on “Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism”](#)PDF (17 December)
- [Opening session of the Regional High-Level Conference: watch the video on UN Web TV](#) (18 December)
- [Keynote Address by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism at the opening Session Conference](#)PDF, (18 December)
- Press release Opening Session: [Regional Conference on Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism Opens in Abu Dhabi](#) PDF (English/Arabic -18 December)
- Closing session: [Co-chairs Summary delivered by Mr. Voronkov](#)PDF (19 December)
- Press release Closing session: [Regional Conference in Abu Dhabi Calls for Tolerance and Youth Empowerment to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism](#)

Vienna



Vladimir Voronkov (center), Under-Secretary-General of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, at the regional conference in Vienna on challenges posed by foreign terrorist fighters. On his right Thomas Greminger, OSCE Secretary General, and Wolfgang Amadeus Brühlhart, Swiss Permanent Representative to the OSCE and UN, on his left.

Joint High-Level Regional Conference on “Foreign Terrorist Fighters – Addressing Current Challenges”

The Joint High-Level Regional Conference on “Foreign Terrorist Fighters – Addressing Current Challenges” is organized by the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the [Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe](#) (OSCE), and the Government of [Switzerland](#), in cooperation with the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship. The event will be held in Vienna, Austria, on 11-12 February 2020.

The overall aim of this two-day conference is to further dialogue on good practices, lessons learned and policy options in addressing the evolving [Foreign Terrorist Fighters](#) phenomenon in compliance with the [rule of law](#) and [human rights](#).

This Regional Conference brings together national counter-terrorism coordinators or equivalent senior experts and practitioners from [OSCE participating States](#) and [Partners for Cooperation](#) along with representatives from the [UN System](#), international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, and academia.

Conference sessions

The Conference has five main sessions:

1. Responses to incitement, recruitment for and facilitation of FTF activities
2. Preventing FTF travel
3. Gathering and sharing of evidence
4. Prosecution of FTFs
5. Repatriation, rehabilitation and reintegration

In addition, a one-day civil society event is organized by UNOCT and the Global Center on Cooperative Security on the day preceding the conference. The conclusions of this event are presented during the conference.

Conference Documents

- [Statement by Mr. Voronkov at the opening Session](#)PDF (11 February)
- [Press release on the opening of the conference](#)PDF (11 February)
- [Summary Conclusions of the Vienna conference](#)PDF (12 February)
- [Press release on the closing of the conference](#)PDF (12 February)

More than 400 participants from over 70 countries attend the opening of the two-day conference. The opening session on 11 February 2020 included:

- Johannes Matyassy, State Secretary, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
- Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism
- Thomas Greminger, Secretary General, OSCE
- Igli Hasani, Permanent Representative of Albania, Chair of the OSCE Permanent Council
- Ghada Fathi Waly, Executive Director, UNODC

Background of the conference

This Joint Regional High-level Conference is the seventh in a series of [regional conferences](#). These conferences follow-up on the first [UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States](#), which was convened in New York in June 2018 by [UN Secretary-General António Guterres](#) to strengthen international cooperation to combat the evolving threat of terrorism. UNOCT is partnering with Member States in different regions to co-organize these conferences,

which aim to strengthen international and regional cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism and the underlying spread of violent extremism. The conferences will feed into the [Second UN High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies](#) to be held on 1-2 July 2020 in New York.

Reference documents

UN Documents and publication relevant to this conference:

- [UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy](#) (2006) and subsequent review resolutions
- [UN Security Council resolutions 2427](#) (2018)
- [UN Security Council resolution 2396](#) (2017)
- [UN Security Council resolutions 2178](#) (2014)
- [2015 Madrid Guiding Principles on FTFs](#) and the [2018 Addendum](#) thereto
- [Key Principles for the Protection, Repatriation, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children with Links to UN-listed Terrorist Groups](#)