



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Opening Remarks by Alexey Lyzhenkov,
Co-ordinator/Director of the OSCE's Transnational Threats Department
at the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on
“Stemming the Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”
Madrid, Spain, 28 July 2015

Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe is the world's largest regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter. OSCE has a strong track record of work devoted to countering terrorism and the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

Last December the 57 OSCE participating States adopted a Ministerial Declaration committing the Organization to support the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) on the threat of foreign terrorist fighters. The Declaration specifically mandates further efforts of OSCE to address this phenomenon.

An OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference held 31 June - 1 July addressed "Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters". The conference brought together some 350 experts from 50 OSCE participating States, all 11 Partners for Co-operation, 20 international and regional organizations, and over 50 participants from civil society, academia and private sector. Discussions emphasized the complexity our societies face *in detection, prevention, incitement, and recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters*, while upholding our values and shared commitments to human rights, democracy and the rule of law. Findings from the conference include 4 sets of specific recommendations on:

- Trends and dynamics in the incitement and recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters;
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned for Strategic Messaging to Counter Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters;
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned to Empower Young People to Counter Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism;
- Good Practices and Lessons Learned to Identify and Engage with Individuals at Risk of Radicalization and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters.

I would be pleased to share Outcomes and Recommendations from the conference (*in total 61*) with the organizers of our high-level meeting today.

As a follow-up to the OSCE-wide counter-terrorism conference the following activities will take place:

- The OSCE Serbian Chairmanship will host an event on youth and radicalization on 3-4 September 2015 in Belgrade;

- A regional expert workshop on “Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter Terrorist Policies” will be organized on 7-8 October 2015 in Bucharest, Romania;
- Awareness raising courses will be developed based on the OSCE guidebook on “Preventing Terrorism and Countering VERLT: A Community-Policing Approach”;
- A training programme “Leaders Against Intolerance and Violent Extremism” (LIVE) to empower civil society leaders, including youth, women and religious figures, to speak out, mobilize others and launch initiatives against intolerance and violent extremism will be implemented.

In this spirit, an organization-wide campaign was launched by the Secretary General together with the Chairmanship-in-Office *in June*, the campaign highlights the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to preventing terrorism by branding all relevant activities across the Organization with a common slogan: “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism”.

“To prevent travel of Foreign Terrorist Fighters” the OSCE assists participating States with enhancing the security of travel documents, their issuance processes, and identity management in line with international standards as set out by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). We do this by promoting access to the ICAO Public Key Directory, by affording access to INTERPOL databases, by conducting forged document training for border guards and through improving the link between Travel Document Security and civil registration documents and processes.

In the area of **“criminalization, prosecution, international co-operation, and the rehabilitation and reintegration of returnees”**, the OSCE maintains close co-operation with its different partners within the UN and the GCTF. For instance, the OSCE regularly supports UN CTED country visits, most recently in Uzbekistan, in order to monitor and promote implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. This is supplemented through our national training seminars, which are supported by UNODC and UNICRI, to promote the implementation of the Global Counterterrorism Forum’s Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism in the Criminal Justice Sector. We also conduct UN CTED-supported workshops on the protection of non-profit organizations against being abused for terrorism financing, as well as promote the implementation of the international legal framework against terrorism and enhance international legal co-operation in criminal matters related to terrorism.

Chairperson, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The OSCE has already adopted a regional framework in support of the global counter-terrorism strategy, as well as a mandate on the OSCE role in countering the phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the context of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014). When looking for capacity facilitators, the OSCE has strong comparative advantages with specialized expertise and unique local knowledge of our 15 field operations and dedicated institutions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and the High Commissioner on National Minorities – as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. We are looking forward to join our efforts with all of you to stamp out terrorism, to increase security for communities, families and individuals across OSCE region and beyond.

Thank you for your attention.