TNTD Remarks for
12th Conference of the Central Asia Border Security Initiative (CABSI):
Cross-Border Cooperation in Central Asia

SESSION 1: The role of border management in countering violent
extremism and cross-border organised crime: challenges and opportunities

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Good morning,

I am honoured to have the opportunity to outline my Organization's contributions in **strengthening border management in countering violent extremism and cross-border organised crime**.

In the following few minutes, let me focus from a Transnational Threats Department perspective and update you on the following key points:

> ➢ OSCE's mandate in the area of BSM and countering terrorism and violent extremism;
> ➢ OSCE's most important current actions concerning border management aimed to limit the movement of foreign terrorist fighters in the OSCE region, including Central Asia.

The OSCE is the world's largest regional security organization. It brings together 57 countries from North America to Central Asia, including all member states of the European Union, NATO, and the Commonwealth of Independent States. It also works with 11 countries from the Southern Mediterranean region and Asia, including Afghanistan, which have the status of Partners for Co-operation. **The Transnational Threats Department (TNTD)** acts as the focal point of co-ordination in this area. Its three units which are the Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU), the Strategic Police Matters Unit (SPMU) and the Border Security and Management Unit (BSMU), independently or jointly contribute to preventing and countering cross-border organized crime. In addition, a Cyber Security Officer is working to enhance cyber stability between States and reducing the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs.

OSCE has a strong mandate to work in the area of border security and management, preventing and countering terrorism, violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, while promoting human rights based approaches.

The OSCE's Border Security and Management Concept adopted in 2005 in Ljubljana sets the mandate for the OSCE border related activities. Since it adoption, TNTD has supported Central Asian participating States in

implementing this document through policy development and capacity-building, networking initiatives, facilitating dialogue and networking between border experts and practitioners, including its key platform - the OSCE's Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network.

OSCE Consolidated Framework for the Fight against Terrorism' adopted in 2012 provides a blueprint for the OSCE contribution to global efforts against terrorism. This comprehensive framework clearly highlights operational principles and identifies the strategic focus areas, which guide the OSCE's counter-terrorism activities. A Ministerial Council Declaration on the OSCE Role in Countering the Phenomenon of Foreign Terrorist Fighters in the Context of the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 2170 (2014) and 2178 (2014) adopted in 2014, consolidates OSCE commitments related to capacity-building, information sharing and co-operation among participating States.

Since 2007, a number of projects addressing transnational threats have been developed and implemented in Central Asian countries with the participation of Afghan authorities and the OSCE appreciates the co-operation and support we receive from the Central Asian OSCE participating States for engaging with Afghanistan.

Let me just bring few examples of TNTD's capacity building activities in the area of BSM ad countering violent extremism and cross-border crime.

Earlier this month, the Transnational Threats Department's BSMU supported the Chairmanship in conducting Annual BSM National Focal Points Meeting in Berlin focused on the issues related to addressing emerging transnational threats and challenges, applying modern approaches to border security and management, strengthening cross-border cooperation and further developing confidence building mechanisms. The participants also highlighted their interest to continue OSCE programmes aimed at strengthening travel document security.

In the area of Travel Document Security (TDS), TNTD's ATU implements TDS programme aimed to increase the level of security in the manufacture and issuance of passports and other travel documents, and to enhance the efficiency of border and other services, involved in passport control. TNTD's ATU together with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and Interpol, organizes national expert visits and workshops on travel document security, including on the ICAO's standards. The Unit also supports the implementation of OSCE commitments on the use of Interpol's database of Lost and Stolen Travel Documents (ASF-SLTD). To date the OSCE Secretariat has conducted over 60 TDS capacity building activities across 19 countries including CA. Such efforts help prevent terrorists from obtaining fake documents which are then fraudulently used at borders and other control points, for example to travel to Syria.

In 2016, TNTD with support of the German Chairmanship, joined UNCCT initiative on promoting Advance Passenger Information (API) - electronic

communication system that collects passenger biographical data and basic flight details provided by airline operator and can be effective tool in interdicting the travel of FTF, other terrorists engaged in transnational organized crime. All Central Asian states will be invited to API Workshop to be organized by the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre, with support from UN CTED, ICAO, IATA, IOM, INTERPOL, OSCE 4-6 October 2016 in Istanbul, Turkey.

Next week TNTD's BSMU will launch a new Train-the-Trainer initiative - aimed to establish **the OSCE mobile training team** to deliver on-site training to border security and management officials to be able to better identify and interview potential foreign terrorist fighters, in full compliance with international human rights standards at entry and exit border check points of OSCE participating States.

25 candidates from OSCE pS and PfC are enrolled through a competitive process to participate in the first interactive 4- days training, which will take place in Vienna on 3-6 May 2016. The training will cover various subjects related to FTF identification, including international/regional legal framework related to FTF, Travel Documents Security Standards, Detecting Counterfeit Travel Documents, Suspect Interview Techniques and Identification of Potential FTFs, Available Databases and IT tools, Information Sharing on Returning FTFs Inter-Agency, Intra-Agency and International Cooperation on identification of FTFs.

Unfortunately, we did not received registrations from CA except from Kazakhstan therefore we would highly encourage the CA pS to register and participate in the following phases of this project. The second advanced training course will be conducted in early September at the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The final phase of this project will include the deployment of the OSCE mobile training team to deliver on-site training at the selected locations. All training courses conducted under this project will be supported by subject matter experts from international, regional organizations (e.g. Frontex, INTERPOL, IOM, UNCCT and UNODC) as well as subject matter experts from the OSCE participating States.

The strategic approach to combatting FTFs should also envisage measures preventing use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. In response the OSCE has introduced a new focus area - Combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes.

The OSCE has just started a project to develop an **e-learning module to provide training on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.** The objective of this project is to increase the general awareness and knowledge on Countering the Use of Internet for Terrorist Purposes by providing basic knowledge and education about the most relevant aspects such as recruitment to violent extremism and radicalization, as a way to train new members, a tool for collection and transfer of funds, or even for the organization of terrorist acts and inciting terrorist violence. In addition, the e-learning module will present

practical examples for how the OSCE and governments in the OSCE could work together with civil society and business circles (Public-Private Partnerships - PPP), to better address the use of the Internet to prevent terrorism in full compliance with OSCE commitments and international human rights standards.

Another example of the OSCE's role in the area of Detecting and Intervening Against Violent Extremism is the OSCE's awareness-raising and capacity building program called **VERLT – Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism.** The programme encompasses a number of round tables, workshops, seminars, conferences and trainings aimed at better understanding the process of radicalization and conditions conducive to violent extremist views that make terrorist recruitment possible. Special focus is also given to counter-narratives, the role of women, the youth, victims, prison population from the perspective both of their protection and also their possible contribution to the common efforts to counter VERLT.

The OSCE has also launched campaign **'OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism' (#UnitedCVE)** to send a unified message from the OSCE as a community, under a common slogan inviting internal and external stakeholders to rally behind and contribute to the campaign. By leveraging mainstream social media channels such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google Plus and Instagram we have been able to reach what recently would have been unprecedented numbers of people. #UnitedCVE campaign has reached more than 1,2 million people in less than two months, showing a great potential for targeted outreach and demonstrating a very high demand for this discussion.

Looking ahead, we are committed to a multi-year initiative **"Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism" – LIVE, with a focus on empowering civil society resilience and responses to VERLT**. As a first step, we will develop training courses to build the capacity of youth leaders, women leaders, as well as religious and traditional leaders to speak up, mobilize and undertake activities against VERLT. As announced by the German CiO, counter-terrorism will remain high on the OSCE's agenda in 2016. **An OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference will be held in Berlin from 31 May to 1 June 2016.** Discussions will include exchange of views on recent international trends pertaining to preventing and countering VERLT. Discussions will focus on young people and violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, including the phenomenon of "Foreign Terrorist Fighters", perspectives for their reintegration into society, and the specific issue of the terrorist radicalization and de-radicalization of young women.

Central Asian Field Operations

Complementing the work of the OSCE field operations in the five Central Asian participating States, TNTD also co-ordinates some projects that fall under the **OSCE engagement with Afghanistan such as the Border Management Staff**

College and a Patrol Programming and Leadership Training Course, both in Dushanbe.

The OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) in Tajikistan, is one of the OSCE tools for addressing risks and challenges to border security and management, serves the interests of the 57 Participating States and 11 Partners for Co-operation. Since College inception in 2009, a total of **2,602** border security and management officials of pS and PfC graduated from the BMSC educational offerings.

Under the **Patrol Programming and Leadership project in Tajikistan** training and equipment are provided to Tajik and Afghan border services to enable them better detect and interdict illegal movement across the Tajik/Afghan border. Since 2009 **729** Tajik and Afghan officials were trained under this project.

Some patrolling training in **Turkmenistan** for both Afghan and Turkmen officials was also provided. The OSCE project was to enable the State Border Service of Turkmenistan and the Afghan Border Police to increase the number of illegal cross border movement detections and seizures of illegal commodities and to promote cross border cooperation and to achieve a number of tactical patrolling training objectives. The project trained over 113 border officials since 2009 and envisages various courses: general military an patrolling course, BSM train-the –trainer course.

OSCE worked closely with the Afghan Customs Academy and conducted a series of training courses in cooperation with the **Kyrgyz Customs Training Center** in Bishkek. 893 Kyrgyz and Afghan officials were trained under this project since 2009. A new phase of this project will start in June 2016.

To conclude my remarks, let me reiterate that the OSCE through a broad range of decisions and commitments has a solid basis for supporting Central Asian and other participating States in addressing cross-border challenges and counter-terrorism, and a long experience in building capacity and fostering co-operation.

Support and interaction among States, strong border security and management agencies is paramount in tackling threats posed by terrorism.

Recognizing each other's roles and responsibilities and stronger joint collaboration will benefit all stakeholders in countering terrorism in all its forms. It is a goal of the OSCE to ensure complementarity and avoid any unnecessary duplication. This includes identifying areas where the OSCE can provide unique assistance or a platform for discussing sensitive issues. As such, the OSCE will continue to encourage a robust dialogue with partner organizations.

Thank you for your attention.