

## **Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism**

**13 – 14 December 2001**

### **“Programme of Action”**

#### **I: Framework for Co-operation**

1. The “Bishkek International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia: Strengthening Comprehensive Efforts to Counter Terrorism” (Bishkek Conference), which was co-organized by UN ODCCP and OSCE, brought together, in the spirit of the UN Charter and the OSCE Platform for Co-operative Security, representatives of OSCE participating States and a broad range of officials from international organisations, observers and experts.
2. Discussions were based on United Nations resolutions, in particular, Security Council Resolutions 1373 and 1377, the UN Plan of Action for the implementation of the UN Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century (April 2000), and on the OSCE Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism (4 December 2001). Considering the fact that the “Bishkek Conference” is also a follow-up to the International Conference on Enhancing Security and Stability in Central Asia (Tashkent, October 2000), the outcome of the “Tashkent Conference” was duly taken into account.
3. The “Bishkek Conference” strengthened the resolve of the participants to unite in the fight against terrorism and to support the key role of the United Nations.
4. The participants invited international and regional organisations to strengthen co-operation and co-ordination by undertaking the following steps:
  - To make full use of platforms, like the “Bishkek Conference”, to develop synergies between their activities in order to maximise the effectiveness of their assistance. In this regard, participants welcomed the intention of ODCCP and OSCE to further develop working contacts in order to strengthen their complementary capacities; and

- To build upon positive experiences gained in the development of the ODCCP Programme for Central Asia, with the assistance of the donor community.

## **II: Measures to Combat and Prevent Terrorism**

*Taking into account* the commitments of the OSCE participating States, as reflected in the Bucharest Plan of Action and in line with Section VII of the Plan of Action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration, the following measures were identified:

1. *To request* OSCE and ODCCP to enhance **synergy and coordination** in providing necessary assistance. In this regard, initiatives of UN/ODCCP and OSCE/ODIHR, such as organizing regional and sub-regional workshops for the promotion of the ratification and implementation of international conventions are strongly encouraged. The crucial role of parliaments, in particular, in the ratification process, is also to be taken into account as is the role of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in encouraging dialogue among parliamentarians;
2. *To enhance* **national interagency co-operation** between anti-terrorist agencies and agencies fighting crime, including drug trafficking, by an exchange of operational information between such agencies and law enforcement authorities charged with combating terrorism;
3. *To foster* **regional and international co-operation** between anti-terrorist agencies and agencies fighting crime, including the trafficking of arms and illicit drugs, e.g. in the form of the establishment of channels of communication between relevant agencies; to suggest to the OSCE Permanent Council to consider convening in Vienna a special expert meeting, with the participation of representatives of law enforcement bodies, arranged by the OSCE while inviting the UN as a co-organiser;
4. *To adopt* national **anti-money laundering legislation** and **create corresponding structures**, e.g. Financial Intelligence Units, which can be employed to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorism, as well as other relevant crimes. In this connection, the participants drew the attention of the international community to the importance of providing assistance, upon request, to States in developing relevant national legislative and administrative tools;
5. *To work toward* **rapid ratification and implementation of relevant international instruments**, including the 1999 UN International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, and consider implementing the standards of financial accountability and transparency embodied in the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) 40 Recommendations on Money Laundering and eight Special Recommendations on Terrorist Financing; to take immediate steps in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), to block the assets of individuals and entities linked to terrorist financing;

6. *To have countries gather **information on**, and **engage in the analysis of, criminal activities** carried out for the purposes of furthering terrorism, as well as collect and update relevant information on terrorism and related activities. Subject to bilateral or multilateral agreements, such information could also be shared with appropriate international bodies and other countries;*
7. *To increase **funding for relevant research** conducted by appropriate institutions, including universities and non-governmental and governmental agencies;*
8. *To prevent the destabilising accumulation and uncontrolled spread and illicit trafficking of **small arms and light weapons** (SALW). In this context, the experiences from the implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, as well as from a series of national training workshops in all five OSCE participating States of Central Asia on combating trafficking and the stockpile management of SALW, should be taken into account. In addition, states are encouraged to actively participate in the regional seminar to be held in the spring of 2002 in Almaty. Moreover, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre is encouraged to develop further activities in the implementation of the aforementioned OSCE document;*
9. *To prevent and to combat terrorism by **increasing co-operation** in the fields of **human rights and fundamental freedoms** and by **strengthening the rule of law** and the building of democratic institutions, based in part, on the funding of relevant programmes of the UN as well as the OSCE;*
10. *To enhance the capacity of **the judiciary** to deal with all aspects of terrorism and related crime, including by the provision of relevant expertise and training so as further strengthen the independence and impartiality of the judiciary;*
11. *To address **inter ethnic frictions** at the earliest possible stage, thus contributing to a comprehensive policy for the prevention of terrorism; to support, in particular, the efforts of the OSCE HCNM in addressing issues pertaining to his mandate; and to foster dialogue and tolerance between majorities and minorities;*
12. *To promote active **civil society engagement** in the fight against terrorism; and to offer young people opportunities to learn and practice tolerance, to enable them to actively participate in civil society and to familiarize them with **peaceful conflict resolution methods**;*
13. *To emphasize the importance of **tolerance** in all aspects of social relations and the significant role of **dialogue among civilizations** as a means of reaching understanding and removing threats to peace in the spirit of UN General Assembly Resolution 53/22; and to foster continuous dialogue among all segments of society (including political and religious leaders, parliamentarians and NGOs) in order to prevent the marginalization of any segment of society; to recommend to*

the OSCE Permanent Council to consider in 2002 the commencing of a dialogue between the OSCE and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

14. *To assist* in strengthening **free media**, including serving the legitimate information needs of society without providing a platform for terrorists; to support the ongoing ODCCP project, “Mass Media Training on Drug and Crime Related Issues” which is being implemented in co-operation with the OSCE, as well as to follow-up on the result of the conference on media freedom in times of terrorist conflict, organized in Almaty by the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media; and to develop further programmes in this area, to promote freedom of expression and to monitor hate speech.
15. *To provide* psychological and social **services to the victims** of terrorism and to their families; and
16. *To address* **economic and social problems** that are exploited by terrorists, by encouraging the countries concerned to focus on **sustainable development** policies, taking into account existing priorities within the donor community.

### **III. Additional Needs**

*Considering* that the Central Asian region is a neighbour to Afghanistan and that it requires support, also in connection with threats originating from Afghanistan, participants from both inside and outside Central Asia, pleaded that special efforts should be made by the international community to provide technical and financial assistance on the basis of comprehensive national and regional programmes of action, in the following areas:

1. *To strengthen* the capacities of Central Asian states **to control their borders** and to prevent border crossing by terrorist and organised crime groups, by taking into account the situation in Afghanistan with specific regard to illicit drugs, without impeding the normal flow of trade and free movement of people;
2. *To encourage* **sustainable economic development** by, *inter alia*, fostering co-operation between national banks in the region as well as within international banking structures, in order to support on the one hand, economic processes, including the attraction of foreign investment, and, on the other hand, to enhance their capacity to control money laundering and to suppress the financing of terrorism;
3. *To undertake* **joint training and operational activities** in various areas, including training of specialists and considering the provision of appropriate equipment and technologies; and
4. *To strengthen* the capacity of governmental institutions to combat terrorism, organized crime and illicit drugs.

5. *To consider* providing such financial and other assistance also with a view to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the relevant international conventions.

Measures in these areas should be addressed in **comprehensive** frameworks. In order to contribute to and ensure such frameworks, as well as to provide support for such measures, consideration should be given – not least with an eye for due follow-up and effective implementation – to continuing the dialogue among concerned countries, with the assistance of ODCCP and OSCE.