

## **Ashgabat Final Declaration**

We, the representatives of the Central Asian countries Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, as well as participating countries, namely Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Kingdom of Norway, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Turkey, and the United States, as well as the European Union and the CTITF entities, have convened in Ashgabat on 30 November 2011, at the initiative of the Government of Turkmenistan, the UN Counter Terrorism Task Force (CTITF), the EU and the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia (UNRCCA) and with the support of the Government of Norway, to reaffirm our strong commitment to cooperation on countering terrorism in the wider region and supporting the implementation of the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia, through the adoption of a Joint Action Plan.

We condemn terrorism, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes and to take necessary action to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations while ensuring full respect of international law, human rights and the rule of law. We underline that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, or ethnic group.

We recognize that the prevention of terrorism is essential to protecting the well-being and human security of our populations while ensuring national and regional stability. We also recognize that linkages between terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, drug and human trafficking make multi-faceted cooperation at the national, regional and international levels an imperative in Central Asia, in the wider neighborhood as well as internationally.

We recognize that the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy ("Strategy") offers a unique opportunity to coordinate efforts and provide direction for national, regional and international counter-terrorism initiatives, while also recognizing the significance of bilateral engagement in countering terrorism. While the primary responsibility to implement the Strategy remains with us as Member States of the United Nations, there is a need for an increased engagement of international and regional organizations and donors through utilizing their mandates, experiences, programmes, tools, and best practices in support of implementing the Strategy.

We express support for the Joint Action Plan to implement the Strategy in Central Asia that has been developed on the basis of a multilateral consultation process in which our States, together with international and regional stakeholders, have taken an active part. We declare our readiness to work together with the Central Asian countries in implementing the Joint Action Plan.

We welcome the central role of the United Nations in the international counter-terrorism

efforts and cooperation and the resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council related to the fight against terrorism.

We recall the joint EU and Central Asian efforts undertaken in the framework of the EU Strategy for a New Partnership with Central Asia and we would like to express our will to further develop our mutual cooperation to tackle shared threats and common security challenges and reinforce the efficiency of implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We also recognize with appreciation the existing efforts of international organizations, as well as regional organizations operating in Central Asia, such as the OSCE, the SCO and others, on building capacity for prevention and mitigation of the threat of terrorism done in full respect for human rights and international law obligations, strengthening regional security and promoting regional cooperation.

We request the support of the United Nations, through CTITF, and the EU to help the implementation of the Joint Action Plan, by coordinating efforts, helping build capacity, and supporting a platform for regular exchanges of information on progress towards implementation and to report the progress to the General Assembly.

To ensure widespread support for the implementation of the Joint Action Plan, we resolve to hold a follow-up meeting with the participation of regional organizations in the first half of 2012 in Central Asia.

We also express our gratitude to the Government of Turkmenistan for their warm welcome and for hosting the Ministerial Meeting in Ashgabat

Adopted on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 by the participants of the High Level Meeting on Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in Central Asia in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan.