

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION BY MR. JENISHBEK JUMANBEKOV,
DIRECTOR OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
REGIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM STRUCTURE OF THE
SHANGHAI CO-OPERATION ORGANIZATION, AT THE
2010 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 14 to 16 June 2010

Working Session I: Transnational threats and challenges

Mr. Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Colleagues,

First of all, I should like to thank the OSCE leadership for the excellent organization of today's meeting and also for the invitation and opportunity to speak to you about the activities and measures taken by the Regional Counter-Terrorism Structure (RCTS) of the Shanghai Co-operation Organization (SCO) to combat terrorism, separatism and extremism.

Terrorism in the modern world, together with separatism and extremism, has turned into the most dangerous global problem that presents a serious threat to security for the entire world community. The extent of the danger posed by terrorist threats depends on the sophistication of the forms, methods, forces and means used for terrorist activities and the tactics for their implementation, and also on the effectiveness of anti-terrorist measures by national and international counter-terrorism systems. Given the fact that terrorism poses a challenge for all of civilization, it is evident today that there are no alternatives to united global anti-terrorist co-operation.

An analysis of the information on international and regional security over the last few years reveals that the threat of international terrorism is putting the SCO Member States – China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan – and the world community as a whole to the test.

Large-scale acts of terrorism in a number of countries have had a major impact on the public and bear witness to the fact that terrorist organizations are increasingly employing sophisticated ways and means of carrying out terrorist acts to achieve their aims.

I should like to mention some of the trends in the evolution of terrorism today:

- Geographical extension of terrorism in the world and its internationalization;

- Increase in the level of organization of terrorist activities;
- Link between terrorism and organized crime;
- Growth in the financial and logistical support for terrorist structures;
- Attempts by terrorists to obtain possession of components or resources connected with weapons of mass destruction;
- Active use by terrorists of modern information technologies and communications;
- Improvement in the forms and methods used for terrorism resulting in an increase in the extent of the consequences of terrorist acts and a rise in the number of victims.

It is worth noting that within the arsenal of resources available for terrorist attacks, there has been an increase in the use of suicide bombers, a method that is less vulnerable and also has a most devastating impact on the population.

This tactic has been employed for diversionary terrorist attacks on transport infrastructures, against law-enforcement agency targets and also in densely populated areas.

Mention might also be made of the consolidated support by international terrorist organizations for certain acts by terrorist and extremist groups.

An important factor contributing to the threats and challenges faced by the SCO countries is the growing drug trade, proceeds from which are used for the financing of terrorist, separatist and extremist organizations. Hence the cultivation of drug crops and the manufacture and dissemination of narcotic substances in Afghanistan, far from declining, appears to be on the increase. A total of 6,900 tons of opium were produced in 2009 (however the figure will be somewhat lower this year as a result of crop disease), and the sale of more than 600 metric tons of pure heroin a year secures an income that exceeds Afghanistan's annual budget expenditure.

The policy pursued by the United Nations over the last ten years in combating the drug threat emanating from Afghanistan, for all its positive aspects, has not effectively achieved its aims. There is a need therefore for more determined intervention by the international community to eradicate the cultivation and production of Afghan drugs. The world community should change the strategy employed by international bodies combating drugs in Afghanistan and, in particular, it should introduce stricter control in the planning and implementation of measures to counter the drug business. Today 30 per cent of drugs pass through Pakistan, 50 per cent through Iran and the remaining drugs through the countries of Central Asia.

Noting the important role played by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Afghanistan, the heads of the SCO Member States believe that UNAMA should pay increased attention to the task of combating the production of and trafficking in Afghan drugs with the assistance of the government of the country, its neighbours and other interested States. They suggest that this task be reflected in the ISAF's mandate next time the situation in Afghanistan is considered in the United Nations Security Council.

There is also a need to reconsider UNAMA's role, with particular attention to strengthening specialist judicial and law-enforcement structures at the provincial level, the planning and conduct of very serious operations to intercept drugs, destroy crops and eliminate the principal drug laboratories and warehouses.

In this connection, we welcome the measures taken by the foreign contingents to achieve closer co-ordination with the Afghan authorities, an aspect that is of particular significance for improving the effectiveness of measures to combat the production of narcotic substances and drug trafficking.

The successful fight against terrorism, the production of and trafficking in drugs, and organized crime in Afghanistan and the region calls for an appropriate combination of force and administrative measures supplemented by targeted socio-economic programmes.

The fact that international terrorist organizations have independent organizational, financial and ideological resources and the tendency by terrorists to use suicide bombers and other devious types of terrorist acts on different targets and in very crowded places creates a real threat to the security of all countries, regardless of their political structure, attitude to religion, and financial and economic development. For the SCO Member States, a particular focal point of international terrorism is still the terrorist organizations on the territory of Afghanistan and the north-western border provinces of Pakistan, which offer refuge to the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (renamed the Islamic Party of Turkestan), the Islamic Jihad Group, Chechen and Uighur separatists and other criminal groups associated with Al-Qaida and the Taliban Movement, which represent a particular danger for the SCO Member States.

Training camps for militants, including suicide bombers, are operating in this region, in which people involved in terrorist acts on the territory of SCO Member States are also being trained.

It might also be mentioned in this regard that extremists have elaborated not only an effective system for training militants but also for their movement from SCO countries to Afghanistan, Pakistan and back. In view of the military operations by coalition and local forces, the terrorist groups mentioned above have relocated to northern Afghanistan and are based in close proximity to the borders of Central Asian countries, increasing the danger of infiltration into those territories. Such infiltration has already occurred in isolated cases, and there is data requiring verification concerning their attempts to enter Kyrgyzstan.

I should like to draw attention to the difficult situation in some regions of the SCO Member States themselves, where the activity of extremists and militant terrorists has been fostered and supported by outside influences.

Under these circumstances, the main task facing the RCTS is to provide assistance in the co-ordination and co-operation of the competent bodies in the SCO Member States in the fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism, or the "three evils", as we call them. The main efforts in this regard are being concentrated on the conduct of joint operations, the exchange of advance information to warn of and prevent terrorist acts, and other measures aimed at reducing threats to security as much as possible.

Particular attention is being paid to assisting in the preparation and conduct of anti-terrorist command and tactical exercises at the initiative of interested SCO Member States. Exercises of this kind were conducted in Tajikistan last year and are scheduled to take place in Russia and Kazakhstan this year.

An international search is under way for people who have committed an act connected with the “three evils” with a view to bringing them to justice, and an RCTS database is being created and updated on international terrorist and extremist organizations, their structure, leaders, members and channels and sources of financing.

A legal basis is also being elaborated and set up to enable joint anti-terrorist activities to be carried out effectively by the intelligence services and law-enforcement agencies of the SCO Member States.

With a co-ordinating role being played by the RCTS, SCO Member States also ensure security at major international events held in SCO countries.

For example, active assistance was provided during the 29th Summer Olympic Games in co-ordinating the measures taken by the competent authorities of China with other intelligence services of the SCO Member States. As a result of the timely receipt and exchange of information about threats relating to the “three evils” and the adoption of effective joint measures, the danger level of any threats that there were was reduced to a minimum and the Beijing Games were able to proceed successfully.

Specific joint measures are currently being taken to ensure a similar high level of security at events planned in China, Kazakhstan and Russia for 2010 to 2014.

Particular attention is paid in the work of the RCTS to establishing and maintaining contacts with international organizations, their specialist bodies and also SCO Observer States and Dialogue Partners.

During the working meeting of members of the Executive Committee with Mr. Dimitar Jalnev, Programme Co-ordinator and deputy head of the OSCE Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU), and Mr. Istvan Venczel, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, an exchange of views and information took place on measures to counter terrorism within the framework of the SCO and the OSCE. Agreement was reached on reciprocal invitations to international conferences and seminars in this field.

The Executive Committee believes that it would be useful to intensify collaboration with the OSCE ATU to prevent the infiltration of terrorist and extremist ideologies into the minds of wide sectors of society, and in particular to suppress websites by terrorist organizations, to combat the use of charitable organizations as channels for the financing of terrorist activities, to stop the spread of cyberterrorism and terrorist attacks on critical infrastructures, and to prevent the use of nuclear materials, radioactive substances and weapons of mass destruction for terrorist purposes.

There is also a pressing need to strengthen co-operation with the OSCE ATU in studying the national experience of European Union countries by holding national or regional educational seminars on establishing criminal responsibility for activities likely to lead to the commission of terrorist crimes, in particular public provocations, recruitment and training,

and also on the use of mechanisms to prevent, monitor and stop the financing of terrorism both by money-laundering on the part of criminal organizations and terrorist groups and by legal means by providing expeditious access to banking and financial information and knowledge.

Representatives of the Executive Committee have taken part in an international seminar on protecting non-nuclear critical energy infrastructure from terrorist attacks held in Vienna by the ATU and other events.

At SCO summits in 2008, 2009 and 2010 the Heads of the Member States spoke in favour of further increasing the quality of international contacts with the SCO Observer States – India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan. They are direct neighbours of Afghanistan with whom they maintain closely interwoven historical, humanitarian, economic and political ties.

To this end, we are stepping up co-operation with SCO Observer States, Afghanistan and other interested countries and also with regional and international organizations, notably the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

In view of the current conditions the global community has been systematically increasing its efforts to combat international terrorism, separatism and extremism. Apart from the specialist bodies and services in the various countries, the relevant institutions of the United Nations, the OSCE, the G8 and a number of other international and regional organizations including the SCO have been involved in this work.

The co-ordinated activities of the anti-terrorist coalition have produced quite a few results. In particular, the centre of international terrorism in Afghanistan has suffered serious losses. There appears to have been a slight reduction in the number of terrorist acts committed in the world. Thanks to international co-operation an increasing number of terrorist acts have been frustrated. The deadlock has been broken in the process of introducing restrictions in the national legislation of a number of Islamic countries (Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and others) on the activity of religious extremist organizations on their territory.

As their statutory documents reveal, the SCO Member States have also made an important contribution towards maintaining peace, security and stability. They have significantly enriched the practice of preventive diplomacy and regional co-operation and have had a far-reaching and positive influence on processes occurring in the world community. They continue to promote the more effective joint use of the potential that has been created and opposition to the threats and challenges of international terrorism.

Progress has also been made in the conduct of joint investigations. Teams made up of representatives of the competent bodies from a number of States, for example, have carried out fruitful investigations of terrorist acts.

The practice of detaining and extraditing persons who have committed crimes on the territory of partner countries is evolving. Only recently, for example, citizens of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were detained on Russian territory and handed over to the authorities of those countries.

Data on trends, tendencies, forms and means used by terrorist groups threatening the security of the SCO Member States are constantly reviewed and analysed by the RCTS, and work is being carried out as planned to prepare the relevant information material so that it can subsequently be made available to the competent bodies within the countries.

The intelligence services and law-enforcement authorities in the SCO Member States are also successfully carrying out the second SCO programme to combat the “three evils” for 2010 to 2012 approved by the Yekaterinburg Summit of the Heads of the SCO Member States.

It can be said today that the stepping up of co-operation by the competent bodies in the SCO Member States has helped to enhance the results of their work. In recent years dozens of terrorist acts have been prevented in the SCO area and serious loss has been inflicted on terrorist groups. As a result, the situation in the region as a whole remains stable and predictable, making it possible to step up integration processes and to expand economic and humanitarian co-operation within the SCO.

The fact that Kazakhstan is currently chairing the OSCE can be regarded as a sign of the world community’s confidence in our republic – a Member State of the SCO – in view of the positive successes of the democratic reforms in the post-Soviet area and the socio-economic achievements in the region.

These results do not, however, give a basis for assuming that the problem of international terrorism in our region has been resolved. The complicated situation in certain Central Asian countries, especially the events in Kyrgyzstan, the existence of illegal armed formations in the North Caucasus (Dagestan, Ingushetia, Karabakh, etc.) and the recent tragic terrorist acts on the territory of the Russian Federation indicate that the ugly face of terrorism still presents a serious threat to the stability and security of our countries.

With this in mind, we believe that, alongside the strengthening of counter-terrorist and other measures by the competent bodies and authorities in the SCO Member States, there is a need to pool the efforts of all international and regional organizations so as to improve the effectiveness of the work to safeguard the stability and security of the SCO region and in particular to reduce new challenges and terrorist threats. International anti-terrorist bodies like the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the OSCE Secretariat’s Action against Terrorism Unit have an especially important co-ordinating role to play.

In our opinion, the SCO countries should carry out the following measures:

1. All SCO Member States, guided by the provisions of United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 of 28 September 2001, should elaborate a national programme to counter terrorism, separatism and extremism and the ideologies behind them, taking account in addition of the financing and logistical support for international organizations involved in the fight against these activities.
2. Implementation of the programme to create a “security belt” along the Afghan border should be speeded up using the resources of the SCO-Afghanistan Contact Group. Together with the United Nations forces effective co-operation with the Afghan authorities should be consolidated at the same time with a view to curtailing the production of narcotic substances,

sealing off the transit routes through SCO Member States and destroying terrorist training bases and centres on Afghan territory and in the tribal region of Pakistan. As noted earlier, there is a need here for a comprehensive approach combining force and administrative measures supplemented by socio-economic programmes.

3. Using the resources of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the SCO Member States, new focuses for co-operation with third countries in combating terrorism and extremism should be identified. In particular, co-operation should be arranged with the authorities of Saudi Arabia and other countries in the Persian Gulf not only to put a stop to radical extremist ideologies but also to prevent them from spreading from their territories.

4. Ways and means of conducting information work to reveal the true aims of terrorism, separatism and extremism on the basis of real examples should be constantly improved. It must be taken into account that effective communication aimed at neutralizing the pernicious ideology and influence of radical “preachers” needs to be carried out by the SCO Member States using scientific resources and also authoritative theologians by way of inter-confessional dialogue with the inclusion of the potential offered by moderate foreign theologians.

We understand that these are not easy tasks but they are extremely important. What is needed most of all is political will and the active involvement of the Afghan people.

In conclusion, I should like to mention that as a comparatively young body, the SCO RCTS is interested in developing co-operation and collaboration with international and regional organizations and other bodies in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism with a view to ensuring stability and security in the world.

Thank you for your attention.