



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Programme Office in Dushanbe
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Statement for press briefing by OSCE Secretary General Thomas Greminger following meeting with Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Dushanbe 4 May 2018

I would like to start by extending my thanks to President Emomali Rahmon for the constructive meeting we just had.

We discussed the long-standing co-operation between the OSCE and Tajikistan, which goes back to 1994.

Tajikistan remains a valued partner for OSCE in Central Asia.

There is strong support for the activities of the Programme Office in Dushanbe.

I would like to mention the successful first Partnership Platform meeting in April. Under the renewed mandate the Partnership Platform meeting marked a new season of co-operation.

This co-operation is based on equal partnership and reflects the OSCE comprehensive approach to security.

Joint work involves activities in three dimensions of security: politico-military; economic and environmental and human rights.

OSCE stands ready to provide its assistance according to the needs and priorities of the Government of Tajikistan.

I also thank the government of Tajikistan for the invitation to the high-level conference on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism, which I will be addressing today.

The conference offers an excellent opportunity to reinforce co-operation and share experiences in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

I welcome Tajikistan's commitment to addressing these challenges, including in partnership with the OSCE.

The OSCE Secretariat, Field Operations and Institutions assist participating States in developing comprehensive, balanced and coordinated responses to these challenges.

Notably, the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe helped Tajikistan draft its National Strategy on Countering Terrorism and Extremism.

The OSCE encourages the development of balanced approaches that address legitimate security concerns while ensuring respect for human rights. Counter-terrorism legislation should criminalize acts of violence or incitement to violence, while respecting the freedom to express views that we may not agree with.

Indiscriminate counter-terrorism policies can alienate segments of the population, which could lead to their radicalization and violence. In other words, such policies could actually push people toward violent extremism and terrorism.

Law enforcement measures alone cannot defeat terrorism and violent extremism, without parallel efforts being invested in prevention.

In this spirit, Tajikistan – with the OSCE’s support – established Public Councils in various regions to engage at the local level and strengthen co-operation between police and local communities.

The fight against radicalization leading to violent extremism or terrorism is not a battle any country can win alone. A comprehensive and co-operative approach of OSCE participating States, multilateral organizations and civil society is needed if we are to succeed.