

**STATEMENT BY MR. ARMAN BAISUANOV,
HEAD OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SECTION
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MULTILATERAL CO-OPERATION
OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, AT THE ANNUAL
SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Vienna, 25 and 26 June 2003

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the start of the new millennium, humanity found itself confronted with new threats and challenges - international terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking, ethnic conflicts and information wars, to name but a few.

We clearly need to consider all the factors that foster the emergence of terrorism and also the conditions and circumstances that sustain it. Only through the joint efforts of the international community will it be possible to determine and take the appropriate preventive measures and to hinder the emergence of terrorism in any part of the world.

In that connection, we are truly convinced that stability and security in Europe are inextricably linked with the situation in Central Asia, and we are willing to co-operate actively and constructively with the OSCE in this area.

Kazakhstan takes a positive view of the process of OSCE reform begun in 2001 and has said on more than one occasion that the OSCE renewal process should focus on putting an end to the imbalance in the Organization's work through the equal development of activities in three areas - politico-military co-operation, economy and the environment, and the human dimension.

Kazakhstan welcomes the efforts to consolidate the anti-terrorism dimension of the OSCE's work and considers these measures to be extremely timely. Anti-terrorism units have been established within the Organization, and the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities has started to consolidate anti-terror efforts.

We believe that the Bucharest Plan of Action for Combating Terrorism and the Bishkek Programme of Action would be more effective if the system of migration control were strengthened, the border and customs infrastructure of participating States were consolidated and joint measures were taken to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. Kazakhstan is making every effort to implement these measures.

Since 2000, Kazakhstan has been implementing the State programme to combat terrorism and extremism, in which the tasks and areas of responsibility of our State authorities are clearly set out. I should like to point out that this programme entails more than

just the use of force. At the heart of the programme is the creation of the socio-political, economic and cultural conditions needed to cut the ground from under the feet of those who disseminate extremist ideas and doctrines.

The legislative basis has been established and is being improved. It sets out the legal and organizational foundations for the fight against terrorism, the procedure for State authorities and organizations regardless of their status, and also the rights, obligations and guarantees of citizens in relation to activities in this area.

On 2 October 2002, the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism came into force in the Republic of Kazakhstan. It has facilitated by the adoption of suitable legal measures in line with existing provisions under international law to hinder and counteract the movement of funds suspected of being intended for terrorist purposes. As part of this process, specialist and law enforcement agencies are identifying bank accounts in Kazakhstan belonging to persons involved in terrorist activities and to organizations directly or indirectly owned by or under the control of these persons.

Kazakhstan has already acceded to 11 of the 12 existing universal international agreements on combating terrorism and the relevant State authorities are doing everything possible to ensure that they are implemented.

Kazakhstan is party to 9 of the 12 United Nations conventions against terrorism. In October 2002, it adopted a law to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. In July 2002 it acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings.

Work is under way to expand the legal treaty framework for co-operation in combating terrorism. The law enforcement agencies of Kazakhstan currently have international commitments, based on documents under international law signed together with other countries, regarding basic operational activities, such as the exchange of information on terrorist and extremist activities.

These documents include 42 multilateral and bilateral interdepartmental agreements, 27 inter-State agreements, 14 intergovernmental agreements and 10 multilateral conventions, including those adopted within the framework of the United Nations, the Shanghai Co-operation Organization and the Central Asian Co-operation Organization.

One of the paramount tasks in combating new threats is the strengthening of the common international legal framework. First and foremost, there is a need to ensure that the anti-terrorism conventions in force are genuinely universal. Differences in interpretations of international documents should not distract us from the task that affects us all, that of establishing a legal system to combat terrorism.

One of the most important aspects of the fight against terrorism is ensuring the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The danger of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons or their components falling into irresponsible hands greatly increases the destructive potential of international terrorism. We need to step up the efforts to consolidate the regimes for the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

The experience of Kazakhstan, which renounced the world's fourth largest nuclear arsenal, should be an example to other countries, including those that have nuclear ambitions. It is in fact on the basis of this policy that the Republic of Kazakhstan supported the disarmament process in Iraq.

As a party to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, Kazakhstan is in favour of the adoption of active measures to ensure the comprehensive and effective implementation of the provisions of this Convention and to prevent the possible proliferation of chemical weapons. It supports international efforts to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons and on their Destruction and intends to continue to contribute to the efforts to strengthen the regime for the non-proliferation of this weapon type.

There have been signs in Afghanistan recently that the terrorist groups are strengthening their positions and consolidating around the remaining Taliban structures, al-Qaida and the terrorist and other anti-government groups under their control.

Despite the successful military operations by the international anti-terrorist coalition in Afghanistan and all the efforts of the central government, this country remains one of the principal suppliers in the world of narcotic drugs, the production of which is constantly increasing. It is a well-known fact that around 75 per cent of the illegal narcotic drugs produced in the world come from Afghanistan, and around 65 per cent of them are transported through our country. According to our information, around 90 per cent of the opium and heroin found in Kazakhstan is of Afghan origin.

The illicit drug industry is one of the principal sources of finance for terrorist activities. We have to realize that terrorism will never be eradicated unless we put a stop to the production and transit of narcotic drugs.

In that connection, Kazakhstan welcomes the decision of the OSCE Permanent Council in April 2003 to make Afghanistan an OSCE Partner for Co-operation. In our opinion, one of the priority focuses of this co-operation should be the fight against the illicit drug business, along with strengthening border security and reviving the country's economy.

The rising level of illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives is a serious threat when it comes to the spread of terrorism and extremism. Corruption and the rise in ordinary crime and its organized forms are, together with other negative factors, conducive to the further development of "criminal terror", which manifests itself in illegal activities involving weapons, regular and home-made explosives and the use of other types of force.

With that in mind, it is important to continue to work even more assiduously to prevent the excessive stockpiling of and illicit trafficking in firearms. It cannot be ignored that 55 per cent of the known firearms stocks, which amount to 305 million units, are currently in private hands. In view of the OSCE's efforts to combat illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, Kazakhstan proposed that the Organization should participate in a conference to be held on this subject in 2004 under the auspices of the United Nations.

Internal economic difficulties and a whole set of unresolved social problems in a number of Asian countries have also contributed no less significantly to the unfavourable situation in the region. The high level of illegal migration in the region is a potential reason for the spread of terrorism and extremism.

Checks are made in a special database to prevent foreign citizens who are suspected of involvement in terrorist or religious extremist organizations or international criminal groups from entering Kazakhstan. The passport control and visa inspection system has been tightened and led to the detection last year of 4,463 illegal migrants, 4,245 of whom were deported.

The protection of the State borders has become more reliable. Serious attention is being paid to the strengthening of the combat-readiness of the coastguard and border patrol aircraft. In 2002, more than 4,000 persons who had illegally crossed the border were arrested and 2,084 of them were deported.

Investigations are made and information exchanged as part of the joint measures taken under bilateral agreements to suppress illegal migration and the criminal activities of illegal armed groups, terrorists and religious extremists. Particular attention is being paid to this issue because members of armed groups and terrorist and extremist organizations, and drug traffickers can remain unnoticed among the stream of migrants.

The laundering of money acquired from criminal activity is a powerful economic factor in the rise in organized crime, including the most dangerous forms - the illicit drug trade, trafficking in weapons, smuggling and counterfeit money.

Generally the money is laundered in what are known as "fast money" sectors - the stock market, credit and financial systems and foreign economic activities.

Experience has shown that the difficulty in combating this problem at the national level is due to the fact that in addition to the domestic possibilities for money laundering, the criminal world also makes wide use of the international payment systems and the favourable conditions of countless offshore zones.

In Kazakhstan the system for combating money laundering is being improved. On 2 and 3 October 2002, the first National Seminar on Combating Money Laundering and Suppressing the Financing of Terrorism was held in Kazakhstan by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in conjunction with representatives from the OSCE and the United Nations. The recommendations drawn up for the Kazakh Government on the basis of the seminar will undoubtedly increase the effectiveness of the national system for combating money laundering.

Virtually all of the religious groups existing in the world are represented in Kazakhstan and more than 100 ethnic groups live together peacefully. Given these circumstances, Kazakhstan wholeheartedly supports the global process of developing dialogue between civilizations and religions.

It is clear that the fight against terrorism should not be allowed to turn into a war against a particular religion, culture or country. Following the events of 11 September, people of many different confessions expressed their solidarity with the people of the United States

of America. This clearly demonstrated that terrorism does not have a national or religious identity.

The adoption last year at the summit meeting of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA) of two basic documents - the Almaty Act on the Institutionalization of the CICA and the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilizations - is also of extraordinary importance. The documents adopted in Asia will make a substantial contribution to the efforts to ensure security at the regional level. While expressing our gratitude to the CICA Member States for the efficient work during the summit, we call on all interested countries to continue their efforts to implement confidence-building measures in Asia.

We attach particular importance to the OSCE/CICA conference to be held in autumn this year. The meeting on 5 May 2003 of the contact group of Asian partners of the OSCE showed that the OSCE participating States are interested in initiating and expanding interaction between the OSCE and the CICA.

Kazakhstan is an active participant in the fight against terrorism within the framework of regional organizations, in particular the Shanghai Co-operation Organization, the Central Asian Union and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). On our initiative, the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre was established and has successfully begun its operations.

Within the framework of the Treaty on Collective Security, collective rapid reaction forces were established in 2001 and have already conducted a number of joint exercises in the Central Asian region with the active involvement of the CIS Anti-Terrorism Centre.

In that connection, it should be pointed out that the Treaty on Collective Security and the Shanghai Co-operation Organization almost simultaneously designated the fight against international terrorism, separatism and religious extremism as the priority focus of their activities. The necessary structures have been established to realize the goals they have set themselves as an initial step in the formation of a multi-level system of regional security.

At the same time Kazakhstan proposed that, in the context of the implementation of the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) Action Plan for combating terrorism, which was adopted at the EAPC Summit held in Prague 2002, a training centre be set up in the Republic under the Partnership for Peace Programme to provide training in border security and in combating the most dangerous forms of smuggling. A regional conference on combating the threats of terrorism and drug trafficking is scheduled to take place in Almaty at the end of this month with the direct involvement of NATO.

In achieving international co-operation to combat terrorism, it is clear that the more countries and international organizations, including non-governmental organizations, that are involved in the efforts to combat terrorism and the more co-ordinated our joint activities are, the less chance terrorists will have and the quicker we will achieve real success.

Thank you for your attention.