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MC.DEL/29/24
6 December 2024

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS, THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, THE
KYRGYZ REPUBLIC, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE REPUBLIC OF
TAJIKISTAN AND THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN AT THE CLOSING
SESSION OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE OSCE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL**

Malta, 6 December 2024

On countering radicalization that leads to terrorism and extremism

We, a group of OSCE participating States,

Are deeply concerned about the growing threat of terrorism and are aware that there are a number of internal and external factors that contribute to the serious problem of radicalization, which breeds violence and promotes involvement in terrorist and extremist activities;

Offer our sincere condolences to the families of the victims and to the peoples and governments affected by terrorist acts in the OSCE area and beyond;

Unequivocally condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, recognizing that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed;

Express great alarm at the growing number of terrorist and other extremist acts that pose a threat to society and the State, which are committed under the influence of radical ideas, including on the grounds of xenophobia, racism and other forms of intolerance or in the name of religion or belief, while stressing that terrorism and extremism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group;

Oppose double standards in the fight against terrorism and extremism, as well as attempts to use terrorist and extremist groups for self-serving purposes;

Reaffirm our unwavering determination to remain united in the international fight against terrorism and to work together to prevent and suppress terrorist acts, and also to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and extremism by strengthening co-operation, fully respecting the central and co-ordinating role of the United Nations, complying with the relevant obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and relevant international conventions and protocols, implementing the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and implementing in a balanced manner the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;

Acknowledge that States should play a leading role in countering terrorist and extremist threats and, in this regard, emphasize the importance of developing regional and international co-operation to strengthen the relevant capacities of State institutions, recognizing that this should take into account, first and foremost, States' experience and priorities and the national context in view of the various legal, political, socio-economic, cultural, religious and other local specificities;

Consider it necessary to step up States' individual and collective efforts to counter radicalization that leads to terrorism and extremism motivated by terrorist ideas and other radical ideologies, including religious intolerance, xenophobia, aggressive nationalism and ethnic and racial discrimination, which promote incitement to terrorism and recruitment for terrorist activities;

Also call for the implementation of comprehensive measures to counter the financing of terrorism and other forms of support for terrorist activities, including by suppressing recruitment, weapons supply channels and the cross-border movement of terrorists;

Believe it is necessary to continue to enhance advanced methods and tools for combating terrorism, in particular to stop attempts by terrorists and extremists to use modern information and communication technologies, including the Internet, to disseminate their radical ideology and practices;

Emphasize the importance of eliminating the causes of and conditions for the emergence and spread of radicalism, primarily among young people, of involving the education system, the media, civil society, religious leaders, academic structures and the business community in the various preventive measures and outreach undertaken by States in order to raise awareness of the danger of the ideologies and activities of terrorist and extremist organizations, and of advancing the principles of tolerance, social cohesion and respect for ethnic, religious and cultural diversity;

Note the particular relevance of the efforts to deradicalize and socially reintegrate individuals who have been influenced by radical ideology, including those previously involved in the illegal activities of terrorist and extremist organizations, those held in detention facilities for committing crimes of an extremist or terrorist nature, and those who have served their sentences for engaging in terrorism and extremism, including so-called foreign terrorist fighters;

Call upon the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates, to actively promote the development of co-operation through an inclusive regional dialogue on preventing and combating terrorism with the involvement of all participating States and interested Partners for Co-operation by encouraging the exchange of national experiences and best practices in this area, and to assist participating States (if necessary and upon their request) in implementing their relevant international obligations, while also taking into account their national priorities and legal, political, socio-economic, cultural, religious and other local specificities;

Call upon all OSCE participating States to discuss and possibly develop common measures to counter terrorist and extremist threats on the basis of the relevant collective commitments, including those adopted within the OSCE.

I kindly ask you, Mr. Chairperson, to attach this statement to the journal of today's closing session of the Ministerial Council.

Thank you.