

**Kuwait Declaration on Border Security and Management**

*Adopted at the High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – The Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”*

*Kuwait City, Kuwait, 4-5 November 2024*

The High-Level Conference on “Strengthening International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation and Building Agile Border Security Mechanisms – the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process”, was held in Kuwait City on 4-5 November 2024. The Conference was co-organized by the State of Kuwait, the Republic of Tajikistan, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).

This Conference is a continuation of the Dushanbe Process on countering terrorism and its financing launched by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in 2018, and as noted in para 50 of the 8<sup>th</sup> Review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/77/298). It is the fourth iteration, following previous international conferences held in Dushanbe in 2018, 2019 and 2022.

The Conference gathered more than 500 participants, including 28 Government Ministers and high-level representatives from 91 Member States, 14 international and regional organizations, 24 experts from civil society organizations, women and youth organizations, and think-tanks.

They expressed sincere gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Meshal Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al Sabah, Amir of the State of Kuwait, as well as the Government of the State of Kuwait, for hosting this High-Level Conference and for the warm hospitality extended to all participants. They also extended appreciation to H.E. Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, and UNOCT for co-organizing this event.

Additionally, they extended sincere thanks to the State of Kuwait, the State of Qatar, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and the European Union for their continued support of the Dushanbe Process and international efforts in countering terrorism.

The participants of the High-Level Conference, in pursuance of the outcomes of the 2022 Dushanbe Conference, acknowledge the evolving global security landscape and the need to enhance and align collaborative efforts among the countries of our diverse regions and other international partners.

**Kuwait Declaration**

We reaffirm the relevant commitment to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the *Pact for the Future* (A/RES/79/1), as well as United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004), 1624 (2005), 1988 (2011), 2178 (2014), 2242 (2015), 2250 (2015), 2253 (2015), 2309 (2016), 2396 (2017), 2462 (2019), 2482 (2019), 2610 (2021), 2617 (2021) and 2734 (2024) and subsequent principles and norms

enshrined in international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and other relevant United Nations Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions.

We express our support for the relevant principles and actions outlined in the United Nations *Pact for the Future* (A/RES/79/1), as adopted by the General Assembly on 22 September 2024, which aims to protect the needs and interests of present and future generations, including addressing the drivers of terrorism, and we reaffirm to pursue a future free from terrorism.

We recall with appreciation the Dushanbe Declaration on Border Security and Management Cooperation to Counter Terrorism and Prevent the Movement of Terrorists (A/77/621) in effective promotion and strengthening of border cooperation and regional coordination on countering terrorism;

We underscore the critical role of multilateralism in addressing the global threat of terrorism and enhancing border security. No single country can address terrorism by itself. Multilateral cooperation enables coordinated and unified actions, ensuring that international, regional, and local stakeholders can share intelligence, best practices, expertise, and resources to effectively counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We express our support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, a framework between the Secretary-General and the heads of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, which aims to strengthen a common-action approach to coordination and coherence in the work of the United Nations system to counter terrorism, and to strengthen support to Member States, at their request, and in cooperation with relevant international, regional and subregional organizations.

We also encourage UNOCT to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system through the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, particularly its Working Group on Border Management and Law Enforcement relating to Counter-Terrorism, with a view to maximizing synergies, achieving greater efficiencies, and avoiding duplication in their work.

We emphasize the need to enhance the effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism activities, underlining the importance of strengthening counter-terrorism efforts undertaken by United Nations entities, and encourage the UNOCT to continue its collaboration with Member States and those entities.

We reaffirm our commitment to fostering multilateral, regional, and bilateral cooperation to address the threat posed by terrorism and transnational organized crime. We will continue to enhance information-sharing to identify terrorist networks, their financing and activities, prevent radicalization to violence, strengthen internal security capacities and judicial cooperation, enhance legal frameworks, and improve border security measures through the inclusion of counter-terrorism elements within national strategies.

We underscore the importance of strengthening international, regional, and national border security mechanisms to prevent the movement of terrorists, foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), the

illicit drugs and arms trafficking, and materials related to weapons of mass destruction and human trafficking as well as cultural heritage and other smuggled products that contribute to funding terrorist organizations.

We commit to implement coordinated risk-based approaches to border management and to integrating modern technological solutions aimed at enhancing real-time information sharing on suspicious movement of people or goods, regional databases, and border control and surveillance measures such as passenger data and border management systems, artificial intelligence, biometric data, and data analytics, and drones to detect and prevent illegal movement across borders.

We call for strengthening the implementation of the United Nations Countering Terrorist Travel Programme (CTTP). CTTP is led by UNOCT and implemented through a ‘One-UN’ approach together with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the United Nations Office of Information and Communication Technology (OICT), the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

We emphasize the critical role of the UNOCT-UNCCT Global Programme on Border Security and Management (BSM), which provides technical expertise to Member States and regional bodies in developing comprehensive border security strategies that integrate counter-terrorism measures and equip beneficiaries to tackle challenges and emerging threats at their borders through targeted training activities and the responsible use of new technologies, including biometrics.

We recognize the value of leveraging established good practices, including the implementation of comprehensive and integrated border security and management strategies to curb terrorism, which integrate whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, including local communities, civil society, women and youth groups, and the private sector.

We encourage States to support the development and adoption of voluntary national and/or regional action plans and strategies that involve all relevant stakeholders and take into account the CTED assessments resulting from its country visits for the provision of prioritized and coordinated technical assistance.

We express concern about the deteriorating security situation in the Sahel region and call for international support to address the capacity challenges of affected countries.

We acknowledge that capacity and coordination gaps as well as infrastructural needs, remain major obstacles to effective border security management. We commit to enhancing capacity-building efforts, providing technical assistance and specific training to border officials, and improving technical skills development for law enforcement officers, practitioners and judicial authorities.

We encourage States to promote and strengthen inter-agency as well as cross-border cooperation

and regional and sub-regional coordination, through effective measures and enhanced exchange of information, between law enforcement agencies, customs authorities, and export and import licensing authorities in compliance with international law, particularly international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law.

We reaffirm our dedication to upholding international human rights, humanitarian, and refugee laws in all security measures. Additionally, we strongly encourage all Member States to consider integrating **gender perspectives** into their strategies, ensuring that our actions promote peace, justice, and dignity for all.

We underscore the need to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit use and trafficking of small arms and light weapons, conventional munitions, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials by terrorists, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients. We will work to strengthen the mechanisms for monitoring and controlling the transfer of such materials for illicit purposes.

We also recognize the importance of partnerships between regional and subregional organizations and the United Nations in combating terrorism, and encourage the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, to closely cooperate and coordinate with these organizations in their efforts to combat terrorism, in line with international law.

We are committed to ensuring that all counter-terrorism measures are designed and implemented in full compliance with international law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, international refugee law, taking into account internationally recognized good practices. We underline the important role of human rights safeguards and oversight mechanisms in border security and management measures, including when leveraging new technologies. We note the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in preventing and countering terrorism, as well as in border security and management efforts, to increase the effectiveness of these measures and ensure a holistic approach.

We recognize the importance of using international databases, such as those maintained by INTERPOL, to enhance identification and information exchange on known and suspected terrorists and criminals. We will work to ensure that the information collected is shared with competent national authorities, with full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to support law enforcement and border security operations. We underline the importance of effectively implementing the travel ban under UNSCR 1267/1988/2253, and of ensuring that the ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida Sanctions List is kept up-to-date.

We recall that United Nations Security Council Resolutions 2178 and 2396 obligate Member States to collect, process, and analyze Advance Passenger Information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) data in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Standards and Recommended Practices on Passenger Name Record. We will ensure that such data is used effectively for the sole purpose of detecting and preventing terrorist travel, to prosecute terrorists, and to identify their potential nexus with transnational organized crime.

We recognize the importance of effectively protecting vulnerable targets, including critical infrastructure and public places ('soft' targets), from terrorist attacks. We commit to enhance technical assistance, capacity-building, and regional and international cooperation efforts in this regard.

We emphasize the need to consider the development and implementation of robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that border security and counter-terrorism strategies are effective and are implemented in accordance with international law and human rights standards. **We will work to establish standardized indicators** and benchmarks to track progress and make necessary adjustments in real-time.

We stand together, united in our shared goal: a safer, more resilient world where peace and security are safeguarded. Guided by the principles of multilateralism and collective action, we pledge to identify gaps, anticipate future threats, and work tirelessly to secure a future free from terrorism for generations to come.

**To ensure sustained progress in border security management and counter terrorism cooperation, we commit to the following:**

- 1. To welcome the organization of a High-Level Border Security and Management Conference** in June 2026 in New York, alongside a review of the implementation of the outcomes of the Kuwait Phase of the Dushanbe Process.
- 2. To continue strengthening international and regional counter-terrorism support to affected countries in Africa**, including through further capacity-building initiatives, and to consider the organization of future activities of the Dushanbe Process in the region.
- 3. To establish a group of border management experts** from Member States, regional organizations, and international partners to share expertise and best practices within and across regions, promoting innovative solutions to meet border security challenges.
- 4. To engage the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Border Management** with Member States' border security experts to foster greater collaboration and technical assistance in addressing evolving threats.
- 5. To establish a repository of good practices** on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact's virtual platform, featuring successful border management experiences from the League of Arab States (LAS), Central Asia, Africa, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), to facilitate global knowledge-sharing and capacity-building.
- 6. To provide technical assistance, including technical exchanges** among border officials and law enforcement agencies of Africa, Central Asia, and the League of Arab States, ensuring that emerging technologies and data-driven solutions are effectively integrated into border management strategies.

We request the Governments of the State of Kuwait and the Republic of Tajikistan to submit this Declaration to the United Nations General Assembly to ensure its distribution among Member States.