

Summary Report

Regional Workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus on International Cooperation against Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

13 to 15 February 2007, Antalya, Turkey

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) sponsored a regional workshop for Central Asia and the Caucasus on international cooperation against terrorism and transnational organized crime. The workshop was hosted by the Government of Turkey and was held from 13 to 15 February 2007 in Antalya. The objective of the workshop was to enhance regional cooperation through harmonized counter-terrorism legislation and information exchange, and to reinforce the commitment of participating States in becoming party to treaties relating to terrorism.
2. In addition to UNODC and OSCE, representatives from the Antiterrorism Centre of the Commonwealth of Independent States (ATC CIS), the Council of Europe, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED), Interpol, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (UNOLA) participated in the workshop. Participating States included Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan. Observer States included Afghanistan, the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran. In total, 31 State representatives attended the workshop, of which six were women.
3. Presentations by representatives from UNODC, OSCE, the Council of Europe, ATC CIS, Interpol, and UNOLA covered a range of topics relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime including international cooperation mechanisms under the universal counter-terrorism treaty framework, prevention and mutual assistance in criminal matters, extradition and the human rights aspects of extradition, and overview of international treaty law and the depositary practice of the Secretary-General relating to States' participation in the multilateral treaty framework.
4. The presentation provided by UNOLA focused particularly on the final clauses of treaties relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime. The presentation highlighted optional declarations and mandatory notifications provided for in many of the treaties concerned. Some of the States parties to those treaties were not fully aware of such optional declarations and mandatory notifications, which have implications for the treaty obligations of such States, and the proper functioning of the international treaty framework in this area. For example, the optional declaration provided for in article 2(2)(a) of the Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism was highlighted since States have the option of narrowing the definition of what constitutes a criminal offence punishable under the Convention. States which have not made such a

declaration are bound by the broader definition of criminal offence as provided for in article 2 of the Convention. In addition, certain notifications were highlighted including the notifications found in articles 6(2), and 7(3) of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, respectively, whereby a State may establish jurisdiction over offences in additional circumstances by notifying the depositary. Lastly, mandatory notifications relating to designation of a central authority for purposes of receiving mutual legal assistance, designation of languages for the purpose of receiving mutual legal assistance, designation of an authority for the purpose of international cooperation, and other such notifications in the context of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime were emphasized as well.

5. With regard to the above, UNOLA promised to follow-up the above matter with the relevant States. UNODC offered to assist in this regard as well.

Prepared by B. Smith
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