



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK



Experience of Implementing the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Convention on Combating Extremism

21 June 2023, 9 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. EST
Conference Room 9 & Zoom (Hybrid Format)

CONCEPT NOTE

Background:

Extremism poses a serious threat to the stability, peace and security of nations across the globe. Its pervasive influence and destructive consequences have made it a pressing concern for societies worldwide, including the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Member States. To address this significant threat China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Russia, adopted the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism at the SCO Council of Heads of State on 9 June 2017.

This Convention provides a comprehensive framework for addressing the threat of extremism by emphasizing the role of States and their competent authorities in combating terrorism and extremism. It condemns the ideology and practices of extremism in all its forms and manifestations, and prohibits public incitement and instigation to extremist actions.

The Convention outlines measures for improving legislation in this field, strengthening border cooperation to prevent the infiltration of extremist groups into SCO Member States' territories, enhancing public information mechanisms to combat extremism, and countering the dissemination of extremist ideologies. It is the first international legal instrument fully dedicated to cooperation among participating States in combating the ideology and practices of extremism.

The upcoming UN side event will offer a unique platform for Member States to share their experiences and best practices in implementing the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism. By bringing together experts and practitioners from different countries, the event aims to facilitate a constructive dialogue on the challenges and opportunities associated with countering extremism.

2023 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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Moreover, it will contribute to strengthening cooperation and coordination among Member States in this crucial area.

Objective:

The primary **objective** of this UN side event is to facilitate the exchange of experiences combating extremism and sharing of the best regional practices in implementing the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism among Member States. It will encourage discussions on stories of success and challenges encountered in this regard. Additionally, the event aims to promote States joining the Convention which is open to participation of all interested countries, reflecting the inclusive nature of the global effort against extremism.

The event will consist of **two panel discussions**. The first will focus on the regional experience of implementing the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism, with a particular emphasis on best practices and lessons learned. The second will discuss the challenges and obstacles in countering extremism in the SCO region and the role of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in addressing this issue. Each panel will include experts and practitioners from SCO Member States. The panel discussions will be followed by moderated Q&A sessions. The event will be held in a hybrid format. The working languages will be English and Russian with simultaneous translation.

Key questions:

- What are the most effective practices in implementing the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism? Which of them could be employed in other regions?
- How has the SCO Convention contributed to enhancing cooperation and coordination among Member States in addressing extremism and terrorism?
- What legislative measures have been adopted by Member States to improve their legal frameworks in combating extremism, as outlined in the Convention?
- What initiatives and mechanisms have been successful in countering the dissemination of extremist ideologies?
- How can the SCO engage and encourage the participation of States in joining the Convention?
- What are the potential areas for future cooperation among States to effectively combat extremism?

Expected outcome:

The event will provide a platform for States to share their experiences and best practices in countering extremism, and to strengthen cooperation and coordination in this important area. By facilitating a constructive dialogue among experts and practitioners, this event will contribute to the global effort to address the challenge of extremism and promote peace, security, and stability in the SCO region and beyond.

Agenda

The agenda for the side event is as follows:

9:00-9:15 **Introductory remarks (4 minutes max.)**

- **H.E. Ms. Maria Zabolotskaya**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations (**moderator of the side event**)
- **Mr. Vladimir Voronkov**, Under-Secretary-General, Head of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism
- **H.E. Mr. Geng Shuang**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the People’s Republic of China to the United Nations
- **Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev**, Major General, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure

9:15-9:45 **Panel discussion 1: Regional experiences and best practices of the Implementation of the SCO Convention on Combating Extremism (7 minutes per speaker)**

- **Mr. Wu Xin**, Deputy Director General, Counter-Terrorism Bureau of Ministry of Public Security of the People’s Republic of China
- **Ms. Irina Kovyleva**, Expert, Ministry of Interior of the Russian Federation

“Changes in the legislative sphere that have increased the effectiveness of national measures to counter extremism”

- **Mr. Roman Shestakov**, Expert, National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- **Mr. Adylbek Kadyraliev**, Deputy Director of the Anti-Terroristic Center, State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic

- 9:45-10:20** **Panel Discussion 2: Challenges and obstacles in countering extremism in the SCO region and the role of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure in addressing this threat (7 minutes per speaker)**
- **Mr. Ruslan Mirzaev**, Major General, Director of the Executive Committee of the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure
 - **Mr. Zhanat Saipoldaev**, First Deputy Head, the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center

“Anti-terrorist cooperation of the Commonwealth of Independent States Anti-Terrorism Center and the SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure”
 - **Mr. Timur Abregov**, Expert, Prosecutor General’s Office of the Russian Federation

“Countering extremism and terrorism on the Internet”
 - **Mr. Manuchehr Mahmudzoda**, Head of the Department of International Legal Cooperation, Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Tajikistan/or **Mr. Amirbeg Begnazarov**, Representative of the State Committee of National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan
 - **Mr. Sanjarbek Saidov**, Colonel, Head of Department, State Security Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan
- 10:20-10:25** **Q&A session**
- 10:25-10:30** **Closing remarks**