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62nd Pugwash Conference on Science & World Affairs

Plenary Session on ISIS

Astana | 27 August 2017

Check against delivery.

Dear Colleagues,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to the organizers of this important event and in particular the Parliament of Kazakhstan for their excellent organization and warm hospitality.

It is my privilege and honour to address this plenary session and to share some of my views and comments as Vice-President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly on such global issue of international terrorism.

Each year, a wide range of important issues is discussed on the Pugwash conferences. Such events help to tackle the problems of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, fight against terrorism and regional security with the close participation of all international stakeholders.

It is also appreciated that this time 62nd Pugwash Conference on Science & World Affairs has decided to hold separate plenary session within this event on the most dangerous terrorist organization as ISIS. We have been talking about this evil for more than three years and trying to defeat it once and for all, but unfortunately failed to do so completely so far.

Dear distinguished participants,

As you know, there are many issues and questions related to this terrorist organization, which need to be discussed globally and found appropriate answers to them.

Firstly, I would like to start from the name of this terrorist group as a serious issue, I believe, which we don't have common approach and understanding. When talking about the group which controls significant part in Syria and Iraq is sometimes referred to by different names such as ISIS, ISIL, Islamic State by many governments and particularly by international media like BBC, CNN, NBC and many others.

The group proclaimed itself a worldwide caliphate and began referring to itself as Islamic State in June 2014. As a caliphate, it claims religious, political, and military authority over all of the Muslim world. But in fact we all know that this group is just a terrorist organization, which has nothing to do with Islam. This so-called Islamic State committed most of its worst and massive attacks in different parts of the world including in the Muslim-dominated countries.

I do believe that we should not use neither "ISIS" nor "Islamic State" to describe the essence of this terrorist group. None of them is acceptable in terms of correct terminology and reality and also ways of fighting against them. Therefore, to avoid the facts of misperception of Islam and unreasonable hatred towards Muslims by those who do not have enough knowledge regarding the religion, we should do all in our power to prevent the further rooting of this organization's name as the "Islamic State" in people's subconscious.

It is appreciated that world leaders and the media are increasingly using the term "Daesh" in place of the more commonly used "ISIS" or "Islamic State." Daesh is an acronym for the Arabic phrase al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham. Essentially, it is another term for ISIS - but the group itself has not used and rejected that name, because it is similar to the Arabic verb that means to tread underfoot, trample down, or crush something.

Another issue is that how we are effectively fighting against them. It is a great concern for all of us that the international community despite of all its efforts has not been able to destroy this terrorist group for many years.

It is obvious that one of the reasons standing behind this failure is the geopolitical interests and selective approaches of different global powers. There are also many questions with regards to financing and arming Daesh by different countries. We all know that neither terrorist organization can possess such a big amount of money, enough for acquiring the latest technical appliances and to supply themselves. To prevent material support of the organization's future inhumane acts, we have to find and cut the source of funding, mainly the source of financial aid. The elimination of those sources can make great impact towards weakening and neutralizing of the terrorist threat.

The recent events proved that no country is immune from terrorist actions. Thousands of people suffer and die in many countries around the globe by Daesh. No need to emphasize that all countries must unite in this difficult time to prevent possible attacks and combat extremism jointly, forfeit their individual objectives and combine their efforts in front of the common goal: counter-terrorism.

It will help to secure the future for upcoming generations, as well as the welfare and prosperity of present generations.

One more important issue is the ideological basis for Daesh. We have to learn how they impact on society, how they brainwash people, mainly the young generation, and in which way they attract people to their ideology. What makes well-educated people blow themselves up or fight brutally against other human beings? We have to find the gap in the existing education

system which the terrorist exploit to influence the mental condition of young generations. Through the support of state, educational institutions must explain the diversity and differences in cultures and religious beliefs. We should prevent the recruitment of new members by this organization, which is declared illegal in more than 20 countries.

We should not underestimate the role of international organizations in the process of fighting against terrorist threat. Being the organization for security and co-operation, the OSCE creates wide opportunities for the participating States to act together and increase unity on issues such as combating human trafficking, radicalization, extremism, and terrorism.

I encourage all OSCE countries, in particular the United States, Russian Federation, EU and Turkey to use the wide mandate of this organization and to get united in the name of completely defeating international terrorism, in particular Daesh and ensuring security and joint co-operation in our common world.

Taking this opportunity I would like to underline an effort of Kazakhstan's leadership to host the several round table of negotiations for Syria crises with participations of all interested parties in Astana. It was a great opportunity to discuss the solutions for deadly conflicts in peaceful means. I want to express my support to the territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of Syria and urge the sides of conflicts to respect these principles. Violated territorial integrity of all countries involved in any conflicts must be restored.

As Vice-President of the OSCE PA, I am glad to inform you that the Parliamentary Assembly established an Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism. Here, I would like to mention tremendous efforts of the OSCE PA Secretary General Roberto Montella who is attending this conference in establishing this committee. Despite a number of disagreements and different views on some global issues, United States, Russia, and many European countries have been engaged in the committee activities as the best platform for dialogue and co-operation on combating international terrorism.

According to its mandate, this Committee will work to raise to a new level the OSCE PA's efforts in the field of counter-terrorism actions with a special emphasis on cross-dimensional issues. It is aimed to promote inter-parliamentary dialogue and the exchange of best practices, as well as enhancing the role of the OSCE PA to develop effective counter-terrorism responses in full compliance with the principles of human rights. The committee created within the OSCE PA has all the opportunities to become a platform working to realize these goals. We invite all member countries to actively participate in the work of this committee.

With this in mind, I strongly believe that international organizations should intensify their efforts to promote human rights, ideas of peace and joint actions to combat terrorism.

I wish you fruitful and productive discussions. Thank you.