PERMANENT MISSION OF AFGHANISTAN

STATEMENT

by the Chargé d’Affaires a.i., Mr. Hassan Soroosh

At the Roundtable Discussions on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Vienna International Centre, July 14-15, 2016

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Opening Session, July 14, 2016

Dr. Trevor Michael RAJAH,
H.E. Ambassador Emine Birnur Fertekligil,
General Sayed Noorullah Sadat,
Distinguished participants and experts,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure for me to participate in this opening session of the roundtable discussions on preventing and countering violent extremism. I would like to thank Dr. Trevor Michael RAJAH, Chief of the Terrorism Prevention Branch and his able teams both in Vienna and in Kabul for organizing this program. I would also like to thank the government of Turkey for funding the program. Let me also welcome our distinguished colleagues and friends from Afghanistan and wish them a very productive stay in Vienna.

Addressing terrorism and associated phenomena and challenges has remained high on the global agenda including under the United Nations over the past few years. The Doha
Congress last year emphasized the importance of counter-terrorism measures at all levels and through various tools including counter-terrorism capacity building programs. This year’s thematic discussion under CCPCJ was also devoted to criminal justice responses to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the financing of terrorism, and technical assistance in support of the implementation of relevant international conventions and protocols. More specifically, the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, as well as an increasing number of counter-terrorism resolutions by the UN General Assembly and Security Council, have provided clear guidance for international efforts in addressing terrorism including violent extremism that may lead to terrorism.

Recent terrorist attacks in Turkey, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, France, Belgium and the United States are testimony to the fact that terrorism recognizes no boundary, religion or nationality and that terrorist groups, while becoming increasingly interconnected across the world, use new complex methods including for recruiting, training, mobilizing as well as for financing their activities.

As H.E. President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani stated at the recent NATO Summit in Warsaw on the threat of terrorism: “Global connectivity simultaneously increases our collective vulnerability to this new threat”. Furthermore, as evidence shows, the link between terrorism and other forms of crime including narcotics, corruption and organized crime including in the context of money laundering and financing of terrorism has been growing, adding to the complexity of security environments across the globe.

Therefore, combating terrorism requires innovative and responsive approaches that take into account these new links and trends as well as the new methods used by terrorist groups, some of which are still provided safe havens. Such approaches should place a special focus on detective and preventive measures.

As it was highlighted under the Doha Declaration as well as during the thematic discussion on counter-terrorism at the CCPCJ session this May, counter-terrorism capacity building remains key in addressing this menace. We commend the efforts made by the UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch under its both general and specialized mandates in providing counter-terrorism technical assistance.

As Afghanistan remains a prime victim of terrorism and a battle front against this menace, we, in particular, appreciate the activities carried out under the Joint Plan of Action between
Afghanistan and UNODC’s Terrorism Prevention Branch, as an important technical assistance framework for strengthening the legislative and institutional capacities to prevent and combat terrorism in Afghanistan. We value new activities and programs for strengthening the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in combating the emerging terrorist threats in Afghanistan. In this context, we welcome these roundtable discussions with a view to contributing to the development of a National Plan of Action to prevent violent extremism and I hope that your deliberations and exchange of views in the next two days will yield successful outcomes in this regard.

Thank you!