



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

The Head of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar signs the Agreement to establish the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement

25 November 2020 – Today, the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Mr. Vladimir Voronkov and the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, H.E. Ahmed bin Abdullah bin Zaid Al Mahmoud signed an Exchange of Letters and a Contribution Agreement to establish the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism in Doha, Qatar.

As the international community marks the 75th anniversary of the United Nations (UN75), the signing of the new partnership in 2020 demonstrates a united front against terrorism. This Office will serve as a parliamentary hub for research, knowledge and capacity-building, leveraging on innovation and partnerships to enhance support to parliamentarians worldwide. It also represents an important milestone in the international efforts to promote a whole-of-society approach against terrorism and violent extremism.

The Shura Council of the State of Qatar announced a US\$ 12,5 million contribution to UNOCT for a period of five years, and the UNOCT on its part will manage the work of the Programme Office and administer its work and activities. This contribution will come in addition to other contributions to UNOCT of the State of Qatar, which is its second largest donor and the main partner in support of UNOCT's core functions.

H.E. Mr. Al Mahmoud and Mr. Voronkov emphasized that this partnership opens a new chapter in the United Nations counter-terrorism work and will greatly contribute to the balanced and integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy across its four pillars.

H.E. Mr. Al Mahmoud commended the leadership of UNOCT in ensuring that the United Nations provides efficient capacity building support to Member States on preventing and countering terrorism. He stressed that building inclusive and resilient societies demands greater involvement of communities, civil society, women and youth who are all represented by parliaments worldwide.

Mr. Voronkov thanked the Shura Council for supporting the mandate of UNOCT. He said that this major contribution of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, which is the first of its kind from a national parliament, illustrates the importance of the efforts to strengthen parliamentary engagement in addressing the scourge of terrorism.

The establishment of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism is in line with the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 17 February 2020, which foresees various joint initiatives to promote the active engagement

of parliamentarians in facilitating a balanced and integrated implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

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