



FOR A FUTURE WITHOUT TERRORISM



Press Release

FIRST COUNTER-TERRORISM COORDINATION MEETING OF PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLIES

Doha, 13 December 2021 – Parliamentary Assemblies from around the world met in Doha, Qatar, to participate in the “*First Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies*” organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement, in cooperation with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar.

The international meeting of parliamentary assemblies was the first of its kind to be convened with a focus on counter-terrorism coordination. The aim of the event was to facilitate a dialogue between representatives of Parliamentary Assemblies on addressing the scourge of terrorism through the establishment of a structured coordination mechanism and a common strategic approach for greater efficiency, policy harmonization, and coherence at the policy and capacity building levels.

The Coordination Meeting brought together representation of several Parliamentary Assemblies, including the African Parliamentary Union, Andean Parliament, Arab Inter-Parliamentary Union, Arab Parliament, Asian Parliamentary Assembly, Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean. Parlatino also contributed through a written statement.

The event also served as a platform for the exchange of good practices. It led to the creation of a joint strategy to improve collaboration between the United Nations and parliamentary bodies in order to facilitate the implementation of United Nations resolutions related to terrorism.

This Coordination Meeting comes at a critical time as parliamentarians are increasingly playing a central role in supporting governments to fulfil international counter-terrorism obligations with the respect for the rule of law and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

Opening the event, the Speaker of Shura Council of the State of Qatar, H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Abdullah Al-Ghanim, highlighted the importance of parliamentary action to identify lasting solutions. He also commended UNOCT on its commitment to fighting terrorism and engaging with parliamentary assemblies from around the world for this purpose.



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In his opening remarks, Mr. Mauro Miedico, Chief of the Special Projects Innovation Branch of UNOCT, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism thanked the State of Qatar for its support to UNOCT. He underscored the role parliamentarians play in countering terrorism and violent extremism and the importance of the meeting: “For the first time ever, this event brought together different parliamentary assemblies to discuss coordinated and coherent action in addressing the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism from a parliamentary angle,” he noted.

A representative of each Parliamentary Assembly took the floor to deliver remarks and highlight the work done by that their respective Assemblies and what they envision for the future.

Following these remarks, a discussion among the representatives took place during which they agreed on establishing a permanent coordination mechanism among parliamentary assemblies, supported by UNOCT. The participants agreed to attempt to meet at least twice a year, under a rotating chairpersonship, to promote synergies, identify common priorities, share experiences and expertise, and elaborate common initiatives and plans of action to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism.

The event was organized within the framework of the work of the UNOCT Office on Parliamentary Engagement established in Doha, State of Qatar, in June 2021, under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between UNOCT and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar.

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