

Speech of

H.E. Mr. Ahmed Bin Abdulla Bin Zaid Al Mahmoud
Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar

At the Opening of

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism UNOCT
Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in
Preventing and Countering Terrorism

Doha in 6th ,11, 1442 H
Corresponding to June 16th, 2021

In the name of Allah the Most Gracious the Most Merciful

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

H.E. Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).

Your Excellencies Chairs of the World Parliaments,

H.E. Mr. Rik Daems, President, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe .

H.E. Mr. Gennaro Migliori, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, (PAM)

H.E. Mr. Reinhold Lopatka, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Counterterrorism of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA)

H.E. Mr. Dmitriy Kobitskiy, Secretary-General, Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS):

H.E. Mr. Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

H.E. Ms. Ghada Fathi Waly, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

H.E. Ms. Michéle Coninx, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, Counter-Terrorism Committee (CT ED)

H.E. Mauro Medico, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Office, UNOCT

H.E. H. E. the Deputy Speaker and the Members of the Shura Council,

H. E. the Vice-Chairman of the National Counter- Terrorism Committee of the State of Qatar,

H.E. Ambassador Ali Ibrahim Ahmed, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to Qatar,

Excellencies, ambassadors and heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the State of Qatar,

Excellencies, ambassadors the permanent representatives to the United Nations in New York,

Excellencies the representatives of the world parliaments who virtually follow this event,

The honorable audience

May Allah's Peace and mercy be upon you

Welcome all, I am pleased that you join us on this historic day, on which we officially launch here in Doha the Program Office of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) on Parliamentary Engagement in the Preventing and Countering -Terrorism, the first of its kind in the region and the world and from which all world parliaments will benefit from its programs and activities. It will be an important paradigm shift in the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat terrorism, given the significant role that parliaments play, due to their legislative, political and social weight and strong and direct impact on all issues of concern to the world communities, particularly the fight against terrorism.

Honorable audience,

The establishment of this Office in Doha comes in recognition of the United Nations and the international community of Qatar's outstanding role in the fight against terrorism, under the leadership and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, "May Allah protects him" and for his well-established policy in the fight against terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its source and in the elimination of its causes.

The establishment of this Office in Doha was the result of close cooperative efforts between the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the Office of United Nations Counter-Terrorism UNOCT, which culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two sides in February 2019 and a subsequent agreement in November 2020, through the exchange of letters to establish this Office.

In brief the functions of this Office include undertaking joint initiatives to support the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council

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resolutions on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism; conducting research and analysis; carrying out standard works to support preventing and countering terrorism, such as enactment of new legislations around the world and assisting in formulating model parliament-led counter-terrorism legislations, policies and strategies.

In addition, the Office will undertake major initiatives under the United Nations Programme and the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU pertaining to the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism, as parliaments play a crucial role in preventing and combating terrorism and supporting International Conventions adopted in the area for eradicating this scourge. It will further support the establishment and operation of a global parliamentary network, and promote establishment and maintenance of a web platform, and produce materials, publications and multimedia sources to support prevention and counter-terrorism activities.

The honorable audience,

From today onwards, the work will begin in the Office of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism. It will receive all support from us to enable it carry out its functions and become a forum for all parliamentarians committed to countering and preventing terrorism.

This event is a coronation of the efforts of the Shura Council with the UNOCT through consultation and coordination with His Excellency Dear Brother Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. I take this opportunity to thank him for his efforts great and fruitful works towards the establishment of this Office to serve the objectives of the United Nations in general and in the field of counter-terrorism in particular.

It is fortunate that His Excellency Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU, who has supported this initiative since its inception, is with us today. We rely heavily on cooperation and coordination with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to enable the Office to succeed in realizing its functions. I also thank and appreciate His Excellency Mr. Gennaro Migliori, President of the Parliamentary Assembly of Mediterranean, PAM who joins us in his first external participation as President of the PAM Assembly following his election earlier this month. We offer him the warmest congratulations for assuming this august post.

I also thank all those who virtually follow this event from Doha and beyond.

Thank you all.

May Allah's peace and mercy be upon you