

PARLIAMENTARY POLICY DIALOGUE ON BORDER
SECURITY AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN
THE CONTEXT OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
HOSTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF
COUNTER-TERRORISM

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PRESS RELEASE

PARLIAMENTARY POLICY DIALOGUE ON BORDER SECURITY AND CROSS-BORDER
COOPERATION IN THE CONTEXT OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

Doha (Qatar), January 31, 2023 – The first Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on Border Security and Cross-Border Cooperation in the Context of Counter-Terrorism was held in Doha, Qatar today. The event was organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in partnership with the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA).

A survey of parliamentary assemblies conducted by UNOCT in May 2022 identified border security and management as one of the key priority areas for the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism. This was the first in a series of thematic parliamentary dialogues planned in the coming years.

The Parliamentary Policy Dialogue was opened by **Mr. Mauro Miedico**, Chief of Special Projects and Innovation Branch and Deputy Director of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre at UNOCT, and **Honorable Reinhold Lopatka**, Vice-President and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and Chair of the Presidency of the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies, who introduced the objectives of the event.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Miedico highlighted the goals of the dialogue, outlining that it will serve to discuss the international legal framework on border security and counter-terrorism, identify the main national policy and legislative challenges and gaps in border security and cross-border cooperation; share good practices of efficient border security and cross-border cooperation among Member States; and assess the role and contribution of parliamentary assemblies and national parliaments in promoting border security and cross-border cooperation.

“To achieve the goals of this event, we will refer to the experiences of parliamentary assemblies, including OSCE PA, as well as the expertise of the leading international organizations,” said Hon. Reinhold Lopatka in his introduction to the Dialogue.

“The State of Qatar supports the exchange of expertise. We are hosting this meeting in order to share the Qatari experience with Member States and protect our borders from the expansion of terrorist acts and growing terrorist groups,” stated General Major Dr. Nasser Saeed Al-Hajri, Vice-Chairman of the National Counter-Terrorism Committee, Ministry of Interior of the State of Qatar. “Our unity is the source of our strength,” he concluded, quoting His Highness Sheikh Tamim Al-Thani, the Emir of Qatar.

The Parliamentary Policy Dialogue provided a platform for representatives of participating parliamentary assemblies to discuss main challenges and threats to border security stemming from terrorist groups and deliberate on measures that can be taken at the international and regional level to address existing gaps and ensure better cross-border cooperation in countering terrorist threats.

Delegations of parliamentary assemblies shared their experiences and expertise in promoting and facilitating the development of border security and cross-border cooperation strategies, in support of efforts to develop and implement effective regional and international border security and management strategies. They concluded the Dialogue with a discussion on the role of the Coordination Mechanism in the context of border security and cross-border cooperation and potential initiatives to be developed jointly.

The hybrid meeting included over 80 in-person participants from 14 parliamentary assemblies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East.

The next Parliamentary Dialogue is scheduled to take place in June 2023, and will focus on the prevention of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

For more information:

- visit the conference website: www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/parliamentarians-gather-doha-counter-terrorism-coordination-meeting-and-policy-dialogue
- contact: Gerardl@un.org, Public Information Officer, UNOCT