



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
Programme Office in Doha

Parliamentary Engagement
in Preventing and Countering Terrorism



PARLIAMENTARY SIDE EVENT on the margins of THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF)

PRESS RELEASE

Internet Governance Forum 2024

A side event highlights Parliamentary Approaches to Use Information and Communication Technologies in Counter-Terrorism Efforts

Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, December 18, 2024 - On the margins of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Riyadh, a side event on “Parliamentary Approaches to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Counter-Terrorism in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1373” stressed the importance of integrating information and communication technologies (ICT) into national counter-terrorism strategies.

This 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 collaboration with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE PA). Bringing together representatives of international organizations, academia, civil society, media, and National Parliaments, it aimed to facilitate a constructive dialogue among policymakers, experts, and parliamentarians on the challenges and opportunities posed by ICT in counter-terrorism.

As terrorism continues to remain a threat to international peace and security, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), provides a solid framework to foster international cooperation in information-sharing, judicial collaboration and countering terrorism financing. However, the rapid evolution of ICT and artificial intelligence (AI) have created both opportunities and challenges to counter-terrorism efforts. While advancements in AI have enabled enhanced data analysis and threat detection, the risks of these technologies being misused by terrorist groups to recruit, disseminate propaganda and disinformation, and raise funds have increased.

This event emphasized the dual role of ICT and AI in counter-terrorism, highlighting their potential to both aid and hinder global efforts. Moreover, discussions aligned with the commitments set forth in the “Pact for the Future,” adopted by the UN General Assembly in September 2024, which stresses the importance of a multistakeholder approach, including

National Parliaments, in addressing global challenges. The Pact underscores the critical role of Parliaments in aligning legislative and oversight mechanisms with technological advancements to safeguard international peace and security.

The expert panel featured representatives from the UNOCT's Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and international experts.

The opening remarks were delivered by H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Hamad Almohanadi, Member of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar; Mr. David Alamos, Chief of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement; and Hon. Kamil Aydin, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (online).

H.E. Dr. Ahmed bin Hamad Almohanadi said that *"It is very important to understand how Information and Communication Technologies and Artificial Intelligence can help us to counter terrorism effectively and make sure that we build safe and prosperous society."*

Mr. David Alamos highlighted that "Terrorism remains a persistent and pervasive global threat, transcending borders, nationalities, and beliefs. The international community, through robust frameworks such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1373 (2001), has provided a roadmap for coordinated action. National Parliaments are pivotal in this endeavour, serving as the bridge between international obligations and their implementation through effective legislation, oversight, and policies."

Hon. Kamil Aydin noted that *"Today's event, co-organized with our partners at the UNOCT, reflects this shared dedication to global efforts against terrorism while emphasizing the critical role of AI and new technologies in shaping modern security strategies. We must stand together against those seeking to undermine our democratic values and threaten our societies through malicious acts."* He also added that *"The potential misuse of AI for terrorist purposes is an urgent and critical issue, and I am deeply grateful for the expertise and insights gathered in Riyadh today."*

This event underscored the essential role of National Parliaments in shaping and implementing counter-terrorism policies that address emerging technologies. It highlighted the importance of parliamentary oversight to ensure that technological advancements are utilized responsibly, in ways that uphold human rights and enhance global security. By fostering collaboration and sharing best practices, the event empowered legislators to respond effectively to the evolving terrorist threat in the digital age. It also promoted the development of holistic, inclusive, and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism strategies, with a focus on gender-sensitive approaches.



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For more information:

- visit the conference website: <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/>
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