



**SECOND PARLIAMENTARY POLICY DIALOGUE ON
PREVENTION AND COUNTERING
OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM
HOSTED BY THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF
COUNTER-TERRORISM**

5 October 2023

Vienna, Republic of Austria

PRESS RELEASE

Vienna, Austria, October 5, 2023 – The Second Parliamentary Policy Dialogue was held under the theme of “Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism”, today. It was co-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).

This hybrid meeting gathered around 70 in-person and 15 online participants from 16 parliamentary assemblies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East and North African region to discuss the role of parliamentarians in preventing and countering of violent extremism. The theme was identified through an online survey, conducted in 2022 and 2023 among the members of the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies and based on recommendations by the previous Coordination Meetings and Parliamentary Policy Dialogue.

The opening session was co-chaired by Mr. Mauro Miedico, Director of the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT-UNOCT) and Hon. Reinhold Lopatka, Vice-President, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and President of the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies. H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka, Speaker of the Austrian Parliament, and H.E. Dr. Ali bin Fetais Almarri, Member of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, welcomed the participants and experts.

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your unwavering commitment and valuable insights throughout this significant gathering. The insights gained here today serve as a foundation upon which we can build more resilient communities, where our youth are empowered, educated, and protected from the threats of violent extremism,” said Hon. Reinhold Lopatka in his introductory remarks.

“Our meetings allow us to understand better the concerns and needs of parliamentarians and parliamentary assemblies and enhance their counter-terrorism and PCVE efforts. Furthermore, thanks to the Coordination Mechanism, we have made substantial progress with several important joint initiatives, which we hope to develop further and promote,” emphasised Mr. Mauro Miedico.

“Qatar believes in the urgent need to counter and eliminate extremism through mutual dialogue,” said H.E. Dr. Ali bin Fetais Almarri, Member of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar.

“As parliamentarians, we have an important role to play in countering and preventing such developments. This must be done in close cooperation with governments, civil society organizations, religious actors, and experts from various fields. Safeguarding core values and providing adequate support to young individuals are essential steps in shaping a peaceful, sustainable, and innovative future,” said H.E. Mr. Wolfgang Sobotka, Speaker of the Austrian Parliament.

This Parliamentary Policy Dialogue provided a forum for representatives of participating parliamentary assemblies to exchange on the global and regional threats posed by the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism, its implication for youth and the relevant international legal framework. Participants also discussed existing good practices in the development of PCVE policymaking and elaborated on the role and possible contribution of parliamentary assemblies and national parliaments in engaging youth in PCVE efforts in line with the international standards, recommendations, and good practices.

The Dialogue concluded with a recommendation by participants to convene a Global Forum of Youth Parliamentarians on Counter-Terrorism and PCVE, in Doha, State of Qatar, in 2024.

This Parliamentary Policy Dialogue was the second of its kind. The [first one was held in Doha](#), State of Qatar, on 31 January 2023, and dedicated to border security and cross border cooperation. The third Parliamentary Dialogue scheduled to take place in July 2024 will focus on the use of new technologies and artificial intelligence in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism.

For more information:

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