

## PRESS RELEASE

### Parliamentarians gather in Istanbul for Counter-Terrorism Meetings and Launch of new Handbook

**Istanbul, Türkiye, May 8, 2024** – Parliamentary Assemblies from around the world met in Istanbul to participate in the Fifth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting, organized by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement with the support of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and in cooperation with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCE PA).

The event is the latest in a series of regular parliamentary meetings aimed at enhancing collaboration among parliamentary assemblies on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism (PCVE). More than 80 participants from 18 parliamentary assemblies from Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East attended the hybrid meeting.

H.E. Dr. Ali bin Fetais Almarri, Member of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and Hon. Reinhold Lopatka, Vice President, and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of OSCE PA and President of the Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies provided opening remarks. Mr. David Alamos, Chief of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism, welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continuous and active participation in the Coordination Mechanism, as well as introduced new members.

*“The Coordination Mechanism is the platform that has demonstrated its importance, not only as a means to share insights and coordinate actions but also to strengthen partnerships and reinforce our determination to address the challenges of terrorism and violent extremism, and I hope it will continue this way”,* said Hon. Dr. Lopatka.

H.E. Dr. Almarri, indicated that the rapid changes that the world is going through require continuous cooperation to address the evolving trends of extremism and terrorism, highlighting that Parliamentary institutions can serve as the ideal forum to address various societal phenomena. He also called for the need of a continued exchange of information, knowledge and good practices among different parliaments.

Throughout the meeting’s four thematic sessions, members of delegations of the attending parliamentary assemblies and experts discussed the main regional security trends and key terrorism-related issues, as well as the importance of ensuring and protecting human rights in preventing and countering terrorism. The representatives of parliamentary assemblies also shared their workplans for 2024, reviewed the general calendar of activities of participants of the Coordination Mechanism, and discussed potential joint initiatives for 2024 and 2025.

During the event, UNOCT launched its new [Parliamentary Handbook on the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 \(2001\)](#). This Handbook serves as a reference tool for parliamentarians as they set out to propose, discuss, amend, and adopt legislation and national strategies related to countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in all its forms. It also provides an overview of the available opportunities for technical assistance in support of Member States' implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other resolutions focused on global cooperation to counter the scourge of terrorism.

The meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies continues tomorrow with **the Third Parliamentary Policy Dialogue** dedicated to **the Protection of Religious Sites, Symbols and Objects**.

Participants will share experiences on existing legislative practices on the protection of religious sites and symbols; and review the relevant recommendations and practices by international organizations on the protection of vulnerable targets, religious sites, symbols, and objects. The participants will also explore areas of potential collaboration between parliamentary assemblies, parliamentarians, the United Nations, and other international organizations on the protection of vulnerable targets.

The [Inaugural Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies](#) was held in Doha, Qatar, on 13 December 2021 and led to the establishment of a Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism to improve collaboration among parliamentary assemblies as well as with the United Nations and parliamentary bodies. It was followed by the first policy dialogue on Border Security and Cross Border Cooperation in the context of Counter-Terrorism.

The Sixth Coordination Meeting will be held in December 2024 in Doha, followed by the Fourth Parliamentary Policy Dialogue.

\*\*\*

**For more information:**

- contact: [Gerardl@un.org](mailto:Gerardl@un.org), Public Information Officer, UNOCT