



**Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

**UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering
Terrorism
in Doha, the State of Qatar**

Hybrid Opening Ceremony

**Doha, Qatar, 16 June 2021
8.30 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. (NY Time, Zoom)
3.30 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. (Doha Time)**

Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests,
Dear colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism based in Doha, the State of Qatar.

I am honoured to be in the company of our host, my friend, the Speaker of the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, His Excellency Mr. Ahmad bin Abdulla bin Zaid Al Mahmoud.

Also, I would like to thank Sheikha Alya Ahmed bin Saif Al-Thani, Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations, for all her support.

I am grateful for the presence of the leadership of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States.





My special thanks to UN Colleagues: Administrator Steiner, Executive Director Waly and Assistant-Secretary-General Coninx for their participation.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The State of Qatar is the first Member State with which we have established a partnership involving both the executive and legislative branches.

Last December, we launched the Doha-based International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism, with thanks to the Government of the State of Qatar.

And we are here today to open another UNOCT Programme Office in Doha, established with the generous financial contribution of Qatar's Shura Council, to lead the work with parliamentarians.

I am deeply thankful to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, for the strong political and financial support extended to my Office.

Excellencies,
dear colleagues,

There is a growing recognition of the important roles that parliaments play in preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism.

There is also a strong demand from parliamentarians for greater understanding of their roles and ways to complement and support executive branch actions in the counter-terrorism context.





Indeed, legislators are integral elements of the ‘whole-of-society’ approach recognized in various United Nations General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as a cornerstone of effective counter-terrorism efforts.

It is with this understanding that we are launching this new Programme Office today: our goal is to unite and strengthen the role of parliaments in preventing and countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

The Parliamentary Office will support lawmakers to develop human rights-compliant and gender-responsive laws, policies and initiatives to help legislative efforts aimed at combating terrorism.

UNOCT has developed a comprehensive package of technical and capacity-building assistance to parliaments and their secretariats, which will be delivered jointly with parliamentary assemblies and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities.

First, the Office will focus on conducting normative work and evidence-based research, and developing innovative tools for parliamentarians.

Second, we will build capacity on a wide spectrum of parliamentary mandates, promoting stronger engagement with civil society.

Third, we will empower women and youth parliamentarians in order to promote age-sensitive and gender-responsive counter-terrorism responses.

Finally, the Office will create a platform for parliamentary networking and coordination.

My colleague Mr. Miedico will present the new Office and its programme of work later at this event.





Excellencies,
Distinguished guests
Ladies and gentlemen,

As you know, next week, the United Nations General Assembly will consider a new review resolution of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which will provide our counter-terrorism mandate for the next two years.

Starting next Monday, my Office will be organizing the 10-day Second Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations.

On the final day of the Counter-Terrorism Week, on 30 June, which corresponds with the International Day of Parliamentarism, my Office and the Shura Council of the State of Qatar will hold a high-level side event with the participation of several Speakers and Deputy Speakers of Parliament and senior Parliamentarians as guests of honour.

We will present a new parliamentary guide to facilitate the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

I look forward to seeing all of you during the Counter-Terrorism Week and our high-level side event.

Thank you.

