



United Nations and IPU support Parliaments in the Sahel to address the threat of Terrorism and Conditions Conducive to Terrorism

Niamey, 14 June 2019 - The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) co-organized a regional conference on parliamentary engagement in addressing terrorism and conditions conducive to terrorism in Niamey, from 12 to 14 June 2019.

At the event, which was hosted by the National Assembly of Niger, parliamentarians from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Mali, Morocco, Niger and Senegal approved by consensus an outcome document containing a set of conclusions and 16 recommendations aimed at enhancing the role of parliamentarians in combatting terrorism and violent extremism in the region.

The Conference, which is the second in a series of capacity-building activities under a UNOCT-UNODC-IPU Joint Programme, represented an important step to promote the role of parliaments in preventing terrorism and violent extremism. It also helped increase the awareness of parliamentarians on the international efforts against terrorism and existing relevant United Nations instruments and resolutions.

Representatives of Austria, Italy and Kenya participated in their capacity as members of the High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism. Parliamentarians from the ECOWAS Inter-Parliamentary Commission and the African Parliamentary Union also contributed to the discussion as well as the High Representative of the African Union on Mali and the Sahel, the Special Representative for Counter-Terrorism Cooperation of the African Union and representatives from the Lake Chad Basin Commission, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and civil society and victims of terrorism organizations.

Parliamentarians took active part in all thematic discussions which focused on top regional priorities such as the counter-terrorism legal frameworks -including gaps and how to address them-, support to victims of terrorism, border management and terrorist movements, radicalization and recruitment by terrorist groups, empowerment of women and youth, and the need to build and support resilient communities.

Background

Since 2017, the United Nations and IPU have implemented the five-year Joint Programme on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism to help parliaments implement IPU resolutions, international conventions, protocols and UN Security Council resolutions related to terrorism.

The Joint Programme includes the institutionalization of the trilateral cooperation between the UNODC, UNOCT and IPU through a memorandum of understanding, which was signed on 8 May 2019. The Programme envisages the organization of two Global Parliamentary Summits in 2019 and 2022, the establishment of a Global Parliamentary Network, and the development of the Legal Databases, the production of annual world parliamentary reports, as well as the design of a web-based platform, mobile

application and toolkits. One of the key elements of the Joint Programme is the delivery of parliamentary capacity building. The Databases with counter-terrorism legislation, case law, bibliography, strategies and treaties are available at: <https://sherloc.unodc.org>.

UNOCT was established in June 2017 to provide leadership on the implementation of General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, to enhance coordination and coherence through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, and to strengthen the delivery of the United Nations counter-terrorism capacity building assistance to Member States, through the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT).

UNODC as mandated by the General Assembly is one of the United Nations' key providers of counter-terrorism technical assistance in the legal, criminal justice and related areas. UNODC works to promote the ratification, legislative incorporation and implementation of the international legal instruments against terrorism, that is the 19 international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions; as well as to facilitate regional and international judicial and law enforcement cooperation in terrorism-related matters.

The IPU is the global organization of parliaments. It was founded in 1889 as the first multilateral political organization in the world, encouraging cooperation and dialogue between all nations. Today, the IPU comprises 179 national member parliaments and 12 regional parliamentary bodies. It promotes democracy, helps parliaments become stronger, younger, gender-balanced, and more diverse. It also defends the human rights of parliamentarians through a dedicated committee made up of MPs from around the world. Twice a year, the IPU convenes over 1,500 delegates and MPs in a world assembly, bringing a parliamentary dimension to the work of the United Nations and the implementation of the 2030 global goals.