

Understanding the terrorist threat in Africa: new challenges and necessary measures

Doha, the State of Qatar

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) [Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism](#), in partnership with the [African Parliamentary Union](#) (APU) and with the support of the [Shura Council of the State of Qatar](#) co-organized a High-Level Parliamentary Conference “Understanding the terrorist threat in Africa: new challenges and necessary measures”. The Conference was held in Doha, the State of Qatar, on 30-31 March 2022, and was attended by 115 in-person and over 50 online participants.

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Africa in the development, implementation, and coordination of these measures was emphasized through bilateral and multilateral collaboration, and by adopting a holistic approach on addressing the factors that are conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The “Call for the Sahel” initiative was among the existing CT& PVE strategies that were referenced at the event. It resulted from the Global Parliamentary Summit on Counter-Terrorism, which was organized together with UNOCT, IPU and UNODC. The G5 Sahel Interparliamentary Committee mentioned their CT forum, which was established among 29 states and the European Union to share information and intelligence on border crossing of those returning from conflict zones. The Mano River Union referred to the establishment of 38 joint border units among four intersection countries to increase the security across the borders. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the “Accra Initiative” among Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana and Togo was also referenced, along with national initiatives that included cross-fertilization and collaboration. OSCE mentioned their policy guidance through comprehensive resolutions on implementing the international CT framework and their special committee on countering terrorism. ECOWAS referred to its judicial framework for CT to support member states. representatives of countries and regional organizations also mentioned their MoUs with UNOCT. These MoUs provide framework on the scope and modalities of cooperation and capacity building regarding PVE/CT, based on a rule of law and a human-rights centered approach.

The third session explored International technical assistance programmes and projects on CT&PVE that are implemented in Africa, and the ways in which these programmes could support parliamentarians on CT&PVE efforts. The Speakers included representatives of international organizations, such as INTERPOL, UNDP, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), and the Tegla Loroupe Foundation. UNOCT further discussed its programmes in the African continent, through presentations from the UNOCT Programme Office for Counter-Terrorism and Training in Rabat; the UNOCT Programme Office in Madrid and their Global Programme to Counter Terrorist Attacks against Vulnerable Targets; and the UNOCT Programme Office on Countering Terrorist Travel in Budapest. In addition, various UNOCT programmes were presented, including the Global Fusion Cells, the Global Programme on PCVE, Surge Capacity, the Border Security and Management, and the Preventing and Responding to WMD/CBRN Terrorism.

The fourth and final session concluded with an open discussion on the needs of the parliaments in Africa for technical assistance and capacity building in specific areas of CT&PVE, and the call for a set of measures that contribute to the establishment of an effective and dedicated CT&PVE network of African parliamentarians. These measures include the establishment of a working group on Africa to design concrete plans of actions for future engagement; setting up



parliamentary advocates on CT&PVE at the national level to sensitize the population; and creating a network of CT&PVE Parliamentary Delegations to represent their parliaments.

Furthermore, UNOCT launched the Online Network for Parliamentarians during the High-Level Conference for Parliamentarians from African States. This online platform will be used to and build the capacity of parliamentarians worldwide in their efforts to counter terrorism. Parliamentarians, parliamentary assemblies, or civil society organizations that work with parliamentarians, can join this network though the following [link](#).

[Event Webpage](#)

[Press Release](#)