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133rd IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 17 - 21.10.2015

Standing Committee on
Peace and International Security
Item 4

C-I/133/4-Inf.1
28 September 2015

Hearing on *Terrorism: The need to enhance global cooperation against the threat to democracy and individual rights*

18 October 2015 (2.30 – 5.30 p.m.)
Room 2, level 0, CICG

Concept note

Background: The hearing will be organized around the theme of the future Committee resolution, expected to be adopted at the 134th IPU Assembly in Lusaka (Zambia).

Specifically, the session will address the following questions:

- What exactly is the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy? Why is regional cooperation important? How can parliaments assist in strengthening the Strategy and cooperation?
- What are the challenges to defining terrorism and how can an international norm be established?
- What is the link between development and terrorism? Can the SDGs help counter terrorism?
- How can parliament work with civil society and victims of terrorist acts to ensure their voices are heard and they are represented in the counter terrorism response?
- What is the role of parliaments in addressing the threat of terrorism at the national, regional and global levels? How can they ensure that both security and individual rights and freedoms are addressed without prejudice to each other?
- What forms can parliamentary action take to promote new policies and closer international cooperation to combat terrorism and support related inter-ministerial collaboration? What are the options available to decision-makers (law enforcement of freedoms versus the national security legal framework)?

Expected outcome: The hearing will offer the Committee an opportunity to learn about current issues related to terrorism and exchange views with key actors in this area. It will also provide the co-Rapporteurs with initial information about how IPU Member Parliaments deal with related issues.

Format: The session will take the form of an interactive hearing between parliamentarians and experts on terrorism. After introductory remarks by the panellists, the floor will be open for an exchange of views followed by a question-and-answer session.

