



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

133rd IPU ASSEMBLY AND RELATED MEETINGS

Geneva, 17 – 21.10.2015

Panel discussion on *Parliamentary action in meeting international commitments to counter terrorism*

20 October 2015 (9 – 11 a.m.)
Rooms 3 & 4, level 0, CICC

Concept Note

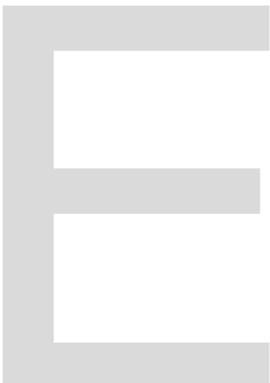
Terrorism has always been a top concern for the global parliamentary community, and increasingly so in the past 20 years. Since 1996, the IPU has adopted 12 resolutions related to terrorism, which have all highlighted the need for cooperation with relevant UN organizations to support implementation of UN strategies, including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. IPU Member Parliaments also adopted unanimously a resolution promoting that Strategy and committing to provide the legislative support required for implementation of the UN resolutions.

The relevant Security Council resolutions lay the foundations for a comprehensive and integrated response to terrorism at the national and international levels. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a milestone in the multilateral counter- terrorism domain. It underscores the role parliamentarians and legislative bodies should play in its implementation and in ensuring that States comply with their obligations under international law in efforts to combat terrorism.

The panel comes in the context of ensuring implementation of IPU counter-terrorism resolutions, including the most recent one adopted at the 132nd IPU Assembly (Hanoi, April 2015), regarding the importance of coordinating with the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED), as well as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in supporting UN efforts to implement the Strategy. The panel intends to:

- Evaluate the current threat of terrorism in general and of the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon in particular, including the Security Council response through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), and progress made in implementing that resolution since its adoption.
- Identify the implementation gaps and clarify the role of legislative bodies in supporting implementation of the relevant UN resolutions and the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Empower parliamentarians from around the world by familiarizing them with the major relevant UN resolutions, including the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, and role of the various UN bodies addressing counter- terrorism.

The results of the panel will feed into the current coordination process between the IPU, the CTED and UNODC, which aims to maximize parliamentary support and involvement to secure implementation of the Global Strategy, especially regarding preventive measures and incitement to terrorism.



The panel will discuss counter-terrorism from both the global and national perspectives. The first perspective will be presented by the heads of three international organizations: Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde, Executive Director of CTED, Mr. Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of UNODC, and Mr. Khalid Koser, Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF). The national parliamentary perspective will be presented by the Speakers of three parliaments directly affected by terrorism in different parts of the world. They will share their experiences of national efforts aimed at countering terrorism.

The debate will be structured as follows:

Under the theme “**How is the UN countering terrorism?**”, the presentation will focus on:

- The role of UN agencies in implementation of the Global Strategy and implementation gaps.
- The role of parliaments in UN counter-terrorism resolutions.
- Expectations of national parliaments in providing support for bridging implementation gaps.

Under the theme “**How are national parliaments countering terrorism?**”, the presentation will centre on:

- The experiences of national parliaments in countering terrorism and the role of parliamentarians in combating and preventing terrorism.
- The impact of UN resolutions on the national democratic process.
- Expectations on UN agencies to support the efforts of national parliaments.

The panel will include a presentation on the relation between UN and IPU resolutions dealing with counter-terrorism, parliaments addressing terrorism and building a Member-driven parliamentary plan of action. Each panellist will make a 10-minute presentation, followed by an interactive discussion. The IPU Secretary General will open the panel and moderate the first hour, followed by the UNODC representative during the second hour.

The panel will be open to all parliamentarians, and particularly the Forum of Young Parliamentarians of the IPU. For the first time, the panel will invite university students, academia and youth. The input of the young parliamentarians and youth in general is essential for the IPU's ongoing work on a Parliamentary Plan of Action on Counter-Terrorism. The IPU will open a dedicated postbox (counter-terrorism@ipu.org) to receive questions and proposals from MPs prior to the panel. The IPU Secretariat will also encourage students to submit their enquiries and proposals.