



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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140th IPU Assembly

Doha (Qatar), 6 – 10 April 2019



Panel discussion on counter-terrorism and violent extremism, *From international resolutions to national legislations: Bridging the implementation gap*

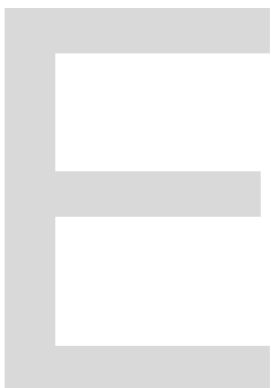
*Tuesday, 9 April 2019, 2.30 – 4 p.m.
Salwa 2, Sheraton Convention Center*

Concept note

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted unanimously by the General Assembly in resolution 60/288, and its revision, resolution 72/284. The Strategy explicitly addresses prevention and provides for balanced implementation across all four of the Strategy's pillars. In addition, through different resolutions, the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council have recognized that the threat of violent extremism leading to terrorism requires concerted action beyond military or security measures and law enforcement. Parliaments have a crucial role in strengthening the rule of law, repealing discriminatory legislation and implementing policies and laws that combat discrimination, marginalization and exclusion in law and in practice. These are all essential components of any response to the threat posed by extremism and terrorism. Parliaments also have to ensure that States comply with their obligations to prevent and counter terrorism in compliance with international law. Nevertheless, gaps in the implementation of international instruments against terrorism still persist, thus calling for greater national and international multilateral coordination between legislative and executive bodies. This also requires a high level of cooperation between legislative bodies both regionally and internationally.

Terrorism is a global threat that requires global coordination to counter it. This is precisely the driver that inspired the global parliamentary community to create the IPU High-Level Advisory Group on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism (HLAG) and its IPU-UN Joint Programme. This programme is guided by the HLAG and is the result of trilateral cooperation between the IPU, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. It seeks to support the parliamentary actions and legislative work that are necessary to implement relevant IPU and UN resolutions and strategies. All the IPU resolutions on counter-terrorism adopted in the past two decades have highlighted the need to institutionalize the relationship between the IPU and UN in order to have a more comprehensive and coordinated approach to global challenges.

The panel discussion will be divided into two segments. The first will give an overview of the parliamentary experience of turning international resolutions into national legislation. This will be an opportunity for high-level UN officials to hear the experiences of parliamentarians at first hand. The segment will also help parliamentarians become more familiar with UN structures and instruments in order to better understand their functioning.



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The second segment of the event will emphasize the need for international support for victims of terrorism, as it is becoming one of the main focuses of the United Nations and the global parliamentary community. Solidarity with victims of terrorism is key to building a stronger and more inclusive society that is resilient to terrorism and extremism. In this regard, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution that established an International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism.

Survivors from the two main hubs of terrorism – the Middle East and the Sahel – will be invited to take part in the discussions. The IPU is a strong supporter of victims of terrorism. It has hosted events honouring their stories in an attempt to bring parliamentarians closer to the realities of terrorism and to counter its narrative.