





Welcome all, I am pleased that you join us on this historic day, on which we officially launch here in Doha the Program Office of the United Nations CounterTerrorism (UNOCT) on Parliamentary Engagement in the Preventing and CounteringTerrorism, the first of its kind in the region and the world and from which all world parliaments will benefit from its programs and activities. This will be an important paradigm shift in the efforts of the international community to prevent and combat terrorism, given the significant role that parliaments play, due to their legislative, political and social weight and a strong and direct impact on all issues of concern to the world communities, particularly the fight against terrorism.

Honorable audience,

The establishment of this Office in Doha comes in recognition of the United Nations and the international community of Qatar's outstanding role in the fight against terrorism, under the leadership and guidance of His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of the State of Qatar, "May Allah protects him" and for his well-established policy in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its source and in the elimination of its causes.

The establishment of this Office in Doha was the result of close cooperative efforts between the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the Office of the United Nations CounterTerrorism UNOCT, which culminated in the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the two sides in February 2019 and a subsequent agreement in November 2020, through the exchange of letters to establish this Office.

In brief the functions of this Office include undertaking joint initiatives to support the balanced implementation of the four pillars of the United Nations Global CounterTerrorism Strategy and the relevant Security Council

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resolutions on the fight against terrorism and violent extremism leading to terrorism; conducting research and analysis; carrying out standard works to support preventing and countering terrorism, such as enactment of new legislations around the world and assisting in formulating model and updated counterterrorism legislations, policies and strategies.

In addition, the Office will undertake major initiatives under the United Nations Programme and the Inter-Parliamentary Union IPU pertaining to the role of parliaments in addressing terrorism.

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It is fortunate that His Excellency Mr. Duarte Pacheco, President of the Inter Parliamentary Union IPU, who has supported this initiative since its inception, is with us today. We rely heavily on cooperation and coordination with the Inter-