



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

REMARKS OF UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL VORONKOV

Shura Council of Qatar - UNOCT E-Signing Ceremony

Exchange of Letters and Contribution Agreement for the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism

25 November 2020

Thank you.

I would like to express my gratitude to your excellencies, Speaker Al Mahmoud and Ambassador Al-Thani, for facilitating this historical virtual signing ceremony between the Shura Council of the State of Qatar and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

I would also like to convey my deep gratitude to His Highness Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, for his strong support to the counter-terrorism work of the United Nations and the establishment of this parliamentary engagement office in particular.

This is an important step to further strengthen our collaboration in line with the Memorandum of Understanding we signed with the Shura Council in February.

Your Excellency,

I very much appreciate your personal commitment to furthering our partnership and your willingness to sign the exchange of letters and the contribution agreement virtually.

Doing so now will enable UNOCT, the Shura Council and the Permanent Mission of the State of Qatar in New York to start preparations for the establishment of the UNOCT's Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Doha.

I am very grateful to the Shura Council for its commitment to contribute 12.5 million US dollars which will help us ensure the sustainable operation of this new Office.

This major contribution to UNOCT - the first of its kind from a national parliament – illustrates the importance of our joint efforts to strengthen parliamentary engagement in addressing the scourge of terrorism.

The State of Qatar is one of UNOCT's leading donors. Just in September, Madam Ambassador and I signed another milestone agreement to establish the International Hub on Behavioural Insights to Counter Terrorism as a UNOCT Programme Office in Doha.

This invaluable and enduring support from both the Government and the Parliament of the State of Qatar greatly strengthens the ability of my Office to carry out its core policy, coordination and capacity-building mandates.

I am confident that our partnership will significantly contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council.

The signing of this agreement in 2020, when the international community marks the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations, is yet another strong demonstration of a united front against terrorism and of the value of multilateralism.

The creation of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement will be an important milestone in the United Nations' efforts to promote a whole-of-society approach in the fight against terrorism and violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

This Programme Office will support the role of parliaments in countering terrorism, and contribute to the sharing of expertise, good practices and lessons learned.

It will further promote parliamentary diplomacy and facilitate multilateral cooperation.

We look forward to working with the Shura Council of the State of Qatar, and all parliaments and parliamentary assemblies across the world, to achieve a safer world without terrorism for present and future generations.

Your Excellency, thank you once again for your continuing strong support to this important initiative.

Thank you.