

Information Note

- Event:** Parliamentary Conference on Countering International Terrorism
- Organizers:** The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) Member Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA).
- Date and Venue:** 18 April 2019, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation
- Participants:** The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Parliament of Azerbaijan, the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the Senate of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Parliament of the Lebanese Republic, the Chamber of Deputies of Luxemburg, the Parliament of Romania, the Parliament of Switzerland, the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe(PACE), the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), the Parliamentary Assembly of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (PABSEC), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the CIS Anti-Terrorism Center, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Ministry of the Russian Federation for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, the Federal Service of the Russian Federation for Financial Monitoring, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.
- UN entities, international/regional organizations, and other non-governmental organizations:* United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Saint Petersburg State University.

Background

On 5 February 2019, the Chairperson of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him and representatives of the Committee to participate in the Conference on Countering International Terrorism, to be held on 18 April 2019 in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, being co-hosted jointly by the IPA CIS and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism.

The Conference, which aims to join efforts for building common approaches to address the challenge of international terrorism, plans to discuss the role of international institutions in countering terrorism, prevention of the use of network technologies to spread extremist ideas, and improvement of legislation for the prosecution of terrorists and suppression of terrorism financing. The program of the event featured a plenary session and a number of thematic discussions, as well as discussion of relevant issues of world politics in the field of combating terrorism.

The Conference was aimed at finding ways to combat terrorism and sharing practices of responding to its manifestations. Parliamentarians engaged in consideration of issues of terrorism and promotion of security, representatives of relevant ministries and institutions, international parliamentary and specialized organizations, as well as experts and scholars are invited to attend the event.

Highlights

The Conference on Countering International Terrorism co-organized by the Interparliamentary Assembly of Member Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime took place in the IPA CIS HQ.

The event brought together heads and representatives of the co-organizers of the conference, heads of parliamentary delegations from the IPA CIS countries: the Azerbaijan Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as representatives of statutory and sectoral bodies of the Commonwealth of Independent States, and international organizations. Representatives of the legislative and executive authorities of the CIS, PACE and OSCE Participating States, international organizations, scientists and experts, who had arrived from different countries, also attended the forum. Some 15 parliamentarians from the OSCE PA participated in the conference.

The statements made at the meeting highlighted the role of parliamentarians in countering terrorism and called for uniting efforts to solve global security problems. Further, four thematic sessions continued the Conference program: “Role of International Institutions in Building a Common Strategy to Counter Terrorism”, “Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Modern Problems and Practices of Criminal Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration”, “Preventing Illegal Use of Network Technologies, Mass Media and Social Networks to Spread Extremist”, “Stepping-up Efforts Against the Financing of Terrorism and Extremism”.

Representatives of co-organizers of the Conference, heads of parliamentary delegations, CIS statutory and sectoral bodies, international organizations also delivered keynote statements reflecting on a variety of current terrorist trends and responses taken by their respective Governments or organizations. Many speakers expressed concern at the recent increase in attacks motivated by racism, hate, and religious intolerance, as well as threats relating to self-radicalized individuals. They also underlined the importance of effective border management, including in light of terrorist abuse of migration channels, and the need to enhance cooperation on countering the financing of terrorism and terrorist use of information and communication technologies (ICT).

The Chair of the 1540 Committee, **H.E. Mr. Dian Triansyah Djani**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed the conference highlighting the importance of the task of the resolution 1540 (2004) to prevent nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, along with their delivery systems and related materials for their development and manufacture, from getting into the hands of non-State actors, especially terrorists. **The 1540 Expert** provided a presentation on the status of implementation of the resolution.

Additional Comments

For further information, please contact the 1540 Committee experts by e-mail at 1540experts@un.org.