

Information Note¹

- Event:** Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism
- Organizers:** The Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States (IPA CIS) Member Nations and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA).
- Date and Venue:** 27 – 28 March 2017, St. Petersburg, Russian Federation.
- Participants:** The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the National Assembly of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Parliament of Azerbaijan, the Chamber of Representatives of the National Assembly of the Republic of Belarus, the House of People of the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Parliament of Czech Republic, the Parliament of Finland, the Parliament of France, 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 Parliament of Norway, the Parliament of Romania, the Parliament of Switzerland, the Parliament of Turkey, 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 Organisation (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 organisations, and other non-governmental organisations:* United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Security Council 1540 Committee, Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Saint Petersburg State University.

¹ For information – not an official report. The views expressed here do not necessarily represent those of the 1540 Committee or of the organisers or participants in the event.

Background

On 3 February 2017, the Chairperson of the Council of the Inter-Parliamentary Assembly of Members Nations of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe sent a letter to the Chair of the 1540 Committee inviting him and representatives of the Committee to participate in the Parliamentary Conference on Combating International Terrorism, being hosted jointly by the IPA CIS and the OSCE PA.

The programme 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 in a number of directions, including building a system of international cooperation, exploring the issues of financing terrorist activities at national and international levels, humanitarian aspects of anti-terrorist activity, and protection of human rights.

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 specialised organizations, as well as experts and scholars were invited to attend the event.

Highlights

The parliamentary conference on Combating International Terrorism was co-organised by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the Commonwealth of Independent States. The IPA CIS Chairperson and Speaker of the Russian Federation's upper house of parliament (Federation Council) Valentina Matvienko and the OSCE PA President Christine Muttonen chaired the Forum. 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, attended the forum.

At the Plenary Session the Co-Chairs delivered speeches, and the CIS Executive Secretary Sergey Lebedev, PACE President Pedro Agramunt, the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean Pedro Roque, the Chairman of the Committee on PACE Political Affairs and Democracy Jensen Mogens and representatives of other international organizations gave speeches.

Other OSCE PA members addressing the conference included Vice-President Victor Paul Dobre (MP, Romania), Vice-President Azay Guliyev (MP, Azerbaijan), human rights committee Vice-Chair Ivana Dobesova (MP, Czech Republic), Pekka Haavisto (MP, Finland), Marie-Francoise Bechtel (MP, France), Gelil Gocer (MP, Turkey), Aase Michaelsen (MP, Norway), and Maximilian Reimann (MP, Switzerland), as well as Ms. Alanna Armitage, Director UNFPA Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Mr Bodo Bahr Secretary General of the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference (BSPC) and Ms Elena Rigacci Hay, Chief of Section, Terrorism Prevention Branch, UNODC.

Participants stressed the role of parliaments in the development of appropriate frameworks for setting-up operational and regulatory mechanisms for the prevention of terrorism, as well as the

need to involve Parliamentarians in capacity building activities for criminal justice officials, as appropriate, in order to facilitate dialogue and understanding among practitioners and policy makers.

The conference highlighted the role of international parliamentary diplomacy in combating terrorism and confirmed the prominent role that international parliamentary diplomacy and co-operation can play in the fight against terrorism.

The Chair of the 1540 Committee, H.E. Mr. Sacha Sergio Llorentty Solíz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia 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. He also stressed the important role of parliamentarians in this process².

During plenary session the 1540 Expert provided a presentation on the status of implementation of the resolution.

The proceedings of the conference were reflected in a set of conclusions which outlined basic principles for responding to the terrorist threat, including establishing efficient interaction between national intelligence agencies, countering conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism such as unresolved conflicts and marginalization of social groups, and strengthening domestic legal frameworks.

Additional Comments

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

² The text is at:

<https://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/documents/Chair%20Statement%20Parliamentary%20Conference%20Rus.pdf>