14th REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OSCE PA AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM.

2022 OSCE PA Annual Session (Plenary),

Agenda Item 4: Report by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism

_Birmingham, 5 July 2022_

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REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON COUNTERING TERRORISM

Madam President,

Mr. Secretary General,

Distinguished Colleagues,

I am honoured to report on behalf of our Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT).

At the very outset, I would like to thank our 10 current members and 20 plus former members, for their active engagement, each of them adding a specific value to our efforts throughout the last five years.

I also need to commend our President and Secretary General - and in fact the entire Assembly - for having placed trust in us and supporting our work.

Ultimately, we are all working towards the same goal: promoting peace and stability in our region through increased parliamentary engagement on counter-terrorism issues.

This was our objective back in July 2017, when this committee was first established at the Minsk Annual Session. This remains our priority five years, dozens of activities and a pandemic later, as we experience one of the gravest European security crises since World War II.

After reflecting upon the latest trends, rather than listing our most recent activities, I will use this opportunity to briefly take stock of what we have accomplished in these first five years of counter-terrorism engagement.

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Terrorism and violent extremism-related trends are constantly evolving. We have already reported how restrictions triggered by the pandemic have been leveraged by violent extremists to fuel societal divisions, hatred and misinformation campaigns in many of our countries.

The war in Ukraine will also have dire implications. While what we are witnessing is not related to terrorism, the very concept of hybrid warfare is rather vague. As such, it does not help to draw a clear line between acts of war and acts of terrorism. But this is a critical
distinction to make, as different international norms apply: international humanitarian law and human rights law in one case, and the international counter-terrorism legal framework in the other.

Notably, cyber attacks have the potential of a massive spillover effect, with a much broader global impact, and no clarity over how far they could reach because of the extensive online interconnectivity.

Irrespective, this illegal war will destabilize the broader region, with enormous social, political, and economic repercussions. For example, the looming food crisis will severely impact millions of individuals across the world, with unpredictable consequences.

Terrorist groups are likely to exploit these news areas of tension, instability, and desperation amongst vulnerable populations to inspire terrorist activism. This will increase the susceptibility of local populations to radicalization.

In this regard, ISIS have called on supporters to take advantage of the opportunities presented while “Western nations are preoccupied by the war in Ukraine”. Al Qaeda have similarly proposed that its supporters should somehow get hold of the weapons distributed to civilians in Ukraine.

Developments in the Sahel region are also alarming, with growing political and economic instability. Food and water crises build upon these already fragile environments. The inability of local governments to effectively manage security has created a surge in terrorist recruitment and activity, especially by Islamic State affiliated groups and Boko Haram. This negatively impacts our collective security, particularly around the Mediterranean.

Regrettably, in many of our countries we continue to witness a worrying increase in both right-wing extremism and male supremacist attacks, fuelled by a rise in “alt-right” ideology and conspiracy theories spread online.

Finally, the past year has shown dramatic changes in the security landscape in Afghanistan. Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, the internal situation remains very tense, with widespread economic insecurity and political exclusion, and possible spill-over effects in the neighboring regions.

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2 Ibid.
Dear colleagues,

Against such a challenging background, I am proud to report that our Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism has worked hard over the years to 1) increase our parliamentary engagement on counter-terrorism, 2) promote the exchange of lessons learned between policy-makers and practitioners, and 3) develop targeted policy guidance for our participating States.

Just to give you an idea of the breadth and width of our engagement, since July 2017 we held 13 official committee meetings, conducted 8 visits, exchanged views with dozens of international, national and civil society stakeholders, and organized/contributed to over 50 international counter-terrorism events!

In addition, we have developed goal-oriented partnerships with several key international actors - including the UN - and successfully implemented the first ever parliamentary oversight initiative in the field of counter-terrorism.

Such a sustained and multi-versed engagement has lead to the formulation of four useful pieces of policy guidance on key areas of our work, including 1) Victims of Terrorism, 2) Foreign Terrorist Fighters, 3) Border Control and Information Sharing and 4) Prevention of Terrorism and Radicalization.

These results are remarkable when considering the limited resources available, the constraints imposed by the pandemic, and the deteriorating geo-political landscape. It is worth noting that, against the backdrop of growing mistrust and divisions among OSCE participating States, our governmental counterparts were unable to agree and adopt ANY ministerial decision in this field since 2016, despite their best intentions and dedicated efforts.

This proves, once again, that our Assembly can add real value in this field even at increasingly confrontational times. Moreover, it illustrates the key role of parliamentarians in promoting policy convergence and building critical support for well coordinated, coherent, and human-rights compliant counter-terrorism responses.

This is why we continue to work hard to strengthen international co-operation in counter-terrorism matters at all levels.

Just recently, we have substantially contributed to the High-Level Conference on Parliamentary Support to Victims of Terrorism, organized by the UN Office on
Counter-Terrorism in co-operation with several parliamentary assemblies, including our own. In line with our resolution on the Victims of Terrorism, we stressed the centrality of upholding victims’ rights to assistance, reparation, protective measures, information, and access to justice.

On the margins, we held very informative bilateral exchanges with selected Italian counter-terrorism stakeholders to learn more about recent terrorism trends and exchange views on future radicalization challenges.

Finally, we attended the Second Co-ordination Meeting among Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism Matters. In recognition of our solid engagement since 2017, the OSCE PA was elected as the first President of this new Mechanism, which I will represent for a one year term.

This new role will enable the PA to influence the work of parliaments even beyond our region, thereby extending the reach and impact of our efforts. It will also represent a unique opportunity to further build the visibility of our Assembly, which is increasingly recognized as a leading actor in this field.

In conclusion, I can only hope that counter-terrorism engagement of our Assembly over the next five years will be as productive and successful as it has been during these first five years.

Thank you!
ANNEX 1: CCT FACTSHEET

The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly established the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism (CCT) in July 2017 to strengthen the contribution of OSCE parliamentarians in addressing violent extremism and radicalization.

Composition

Chair
Reinhold Lopatka (Austria)

Vice-Chair
Kamil Aydin (Turkey)

Members
Vilija Aleknaite-Abramikiené (Lithuania)
Ida Glanzmann-Hunkeler (Switzerland)
Paolo Grimoldi (Italy)
Pia Kauma (Finland)
Tsogtbaatar Damdin (Mongolia)
Marc Veasey (United States of America)

Parliamentarians in Counterterrorism

Act as enablers, shaping the national policy & legislative counter-terrorism frameworks and establishing the mandate of security-related bodies.

Serve as controllers, ensuring that all counter-terrorism measures fully respect fundamental freedoms, including through the oversight of national counter-terrorism bodies.

Bridge diverging views at all levels, whereby they promote constructive exchanges between civil society and state authorities, as well as inter-parliamentary dialogue and co-operation.

Goals of the Committee

- Advocate for inclusive, effective and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism responses.
- Contribute to the timely implementation of the international counter-terrorism framework.
- Develop forward-looking policy guidance based on identified loopholes and new approaches.
THE COMMITTEE AT WORK

Areas of Focus

- Promote the successful prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of FTFs and their families, including women and children, in the OSCE Region.

- Strengthen border security and information sharing through sound Advance Passenger Information (API), Passenger Name Records (PNR) and biometric data management systems, in accordance with UNSCR 2396.

- Foster prevention efforts and promote sensible global parameters & guidance to counter radicalization, both offline and online.

- Support victims of terrorism and strengthen the role of victims’ associations through advocacy and awareness-raising.

- Explore the intersection of terrorism with other serious threats, such as bioterrorism, terrorist financing, nuclear proliferation and hybrid threats.

- In the context of the COVID-19 emergency, prompt OSCE governments to 1) ensure that counter-terrorism responses respect human rights 2) counter the narratives and disinformation spread by violent extremists, and 3) lend critical support to the most vulnerable and exposed groups in society.

CCT “Toolkit”

- Committee Meetings
- Informative Hearings
- Official Visits & Conferences
- Policy Resolutions
- Oversight Initiatives
- Outreach & Public Messaging
- Partnerships

Key Achievements

- Strengthened the engagement of parliamentarians on counter-terrorism and identified several thematic areas where they may add value.

- Advocated for inclusive, effective and human rights-compliant responses & shared lessons learned on border security, FTFs, radicalization & de-radicalization, victims of terrorism and on-line prevention.

- Developed new policy guidance on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism (2018 Berlin Resolution) and on addressing the threats stemming from the return & relocation of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (2019 Luxembourg Resolution).

- Promoted the implementation of key international obligations on border security and information sharing stemming from UNSCR 2396 through parliamentary oversight.

- Improved international co-ordination through a network of partnerships with key stakeholders, including the OSCE, the United Nations (e.g. 2020 MoU with UNOCT) and various regional interparliamentary assemblies.

Upcoming

- Development of Supplementary Item on Victims of Terrorism at the OSCE PA Annual Session, 2-6 July 2022 (Birmingham)
- 12th Committee Meeting, 3 July 2022 (Birmingham)
- Regional Policy Dialogue with Parliamentarians from Central Asia, fall 2022 tbc.
- Third Co-ordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies, January 2023 (Doha)

For more information: www.oscepa.org
ANNEX 2: COMPENDIUM OF IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES, REPORTS, POLICY PROPOSALS & SPECIAL INITIATIVES

since July 2017

ACTIVITIES

Implemented in 2022

- Coordination Meeting with the OSCE Secretariat (Transnational Threats Department) – Vienna, Austria, 14 Jun. 2022
- Contribution to Second Co-ordination Meeting among Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism Matters, organized by UNOCT - Naples, Italy, 10 Jun. 2022
- Contribution to OSCE Security Briefing for Representatives of Legislative Authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, organised by OSCE - Online, 8 Jun. 2022
- Contribution to High-Level Conference on Parliamentary Support Victims of Terrorism, organized by UNOCT in co-operation with PAM, OSCE PA, and APU - Rome, Italy, 7-8 Jun. 2022
- Informative Exchanges with Italian Counter-Terrorism Stakeholders - Rome, Italy, 7 Jun. 2022
- Contribution to Side Event on Engaging Parliamentarians with Civil Society Organizations in Enhancing Legislation and Oversight Functions on Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism, organized by UNOCT - Malaga, Spain, 9 May 2022
- Contribution to UNOCT’s Annual Forum of Beneficiaries of Technical Assistance - Doha, Qatar, 28-29 Mar. 2022
- 11th CCT Meeting on the latest security developments in Afghanistan - Online, 17 Feb. 2022
- Contribution to Parliamentary Web Dialogue on The Clean Energy Revolution and its Implications for the OSCE region, organised by OSCE PA - Online, 4 Feb. 2022
- Contribution to Launch of the Model Legislative Provisions for Victims of Terrorism, organized by IPU, UNOCT and UNODC - Online, 4 Feb. 2022
- Contribution to Webinar on Parliamentary Responses to Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism, organized by Commonwealth Parliamentary Association - Online, 11 Jan. 2022

Implemented in 2021

- Contribution to The Role of Parliamentarians in the Implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) for Addressing Terrorism and Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, organized by UNOCT - Doha, Qatar, 14-15 Dec. 2021
- Contribution to Co-ordination Meeting among Parliamentary Assemblies on Counter-Terrorism Matters, organized by UNOCT - Doha, Qatar, 13 Dec. 2021
- Participation in OSCE Annual Focal Points Meeting, organized by OSCE Department/Action against Terrorism Unit - Online, 13 Dec. 2021
● Organisation of the Regional Policy Dialogue on FTFs with Legislators from South-Eastern Europe, together with the OSCE Secretariat and with the support of OSCE Field Operations in the Western Balkans – Vienna, Austria, 14-15 Oct. 2021

● Meeting of the CCT Chair with Under-Secretary General Vladimir Voronkov, United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) – Vienna, Austria, 9 Sept. 2021

● Presentation of the latest CCT efforts before the OSCE Security Committee, Thematic Meeting on “Tangible Actions in Preventing Terrorism - Terrorist Financing, Money Laundering and Passenger Data Exchange Systems” - Vienna, Austria, 20 Jul. 2021

● Contribution to the Inauguration Ceremony of the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism – Online, 16 Jun. 2021

● CCT Hearing on Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) - the Kazakh Experience – Online, 18 May 2021


● Organization of the OSCE PA – PAM Joint Session on “Assessing the Terrorist Threat and Efforts to Prevent Violent Extremism” – Online, 15 Apr. 2021

● Contribution to the UNOCT Session on to the “Promoting and Protecting the Rights of Victims of Terrorism and Addressing Their Needs” – Online, 15 Apr. 2021

● Contribution to the 2021 OSCE-wide Counter-terrorism Conference on “Reinforcing a Comprehensive Approach in Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) in a Changing Landscape” – Online, 20-21 Apr. 2021

● 10th Meeting of the CCT at the OSCE PA Winter Meeting – Online, 18 Feb. 2021

● Contribution by the CCT chair to the High-Level Panel on Regional Co-operation at the PAM-UNOCT Virtual Meeting on the Challenges of the post-territorial ISIL context – Online, 15 Feb. 2021

● Coordination Meeting with the 2021 OSCE Chairmanship (Sweden) – Online, 26 Jan. 2021

● Contribution to the UNOCT thematic online expert consultations to develop Model Legislative Provisions to Support and Protect the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism on “Recognition and Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism” – Online, 18 Jan. 2021

● Coordination Meeting with the OSCE Secretariat (ATU) – Online, 13 Jan. 2021

● Focal Points’ Meeting with UNOCT (as per MoU of 03.02.2020) – Online, 12 Jan. 2021

Implemented in 2020

● OSCE Department/Action against Terrorism Unit Annual Focal Points Meeting - Online, 15 December 2020

● Contribution to the UNOCT thematic online expert consultations to develop Model Legislative Provisions to Support and Protect the Rights and Needs of Victims of Terrorism on the “Role of victims’ associations and non-governmental organizations” – Online, 3 Dec. 2020
● **9th Meeting of the CCT** - Online, 25 Nov. 2020
● Expert Consultations with OSCE/Action against Terrorism Unit (ATU) on its Project on Assistance to parliamentarians working on terrorism-related matters - Online, 7 Oct. 2020
● **Meetings of the CCT Chair** with the OSCE Albanian Chairmanship and the OSCE Transnational Threats Department of the OSCE Secretariat – Vienna, Austria, 15 & 24 Sept. 2020
● **Focal Points’ Meeting with UNOCT** (as per MoU of 03.02.2020) – Online, 17 Sept. 2020
● Contribution to the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on “Effective Partnerships Against Extremism and Terrorism” – Vienna, Austria, 14-15 Sept. 2020
● Organization of the OSCE PA-PAM-UNOCT Parliamentary Web Dialogue on “Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic” - Online, 30 Jun. 2020
● **8th Meeting of the CCT** – Online, 5 Jun. 2020
● **7th Meeting of the CCT** - Vienna, Austria, 21 Feb. 2020.
● Signing of a dedicated MoU with the United Nations (i.e. UNOCT), New York, USA, 3 Feb. 2020
● **Official Visit to Norway** – Oslo, Norway, 14-15 Jan. 2020
● **Coordination Meeting with UNOCT** – Vienna, Austria, 10 Jan. 2020

**Implemented in 2019**

● Contribution to PAM Coordination Meeting at the Italian Parliament – Rome, Italy, 29 Nov. 2019.
● Presentation of the OSCE PA Resolution on Challenges Related to the Return and Relocation of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and of the OSCE PA Oversight Initiative on Border Security and Information Sharing at the OSCE Security Committee – Vienna, Austria, 11 Nov. 2019
● Contribution at 3rd OSCE-wide Seminar on Passenger Data Exchange (organised in co-operation with UNOCT) - Vienna, 31 October 2019
● **6th Meeting of the CCT** at the 2019 Autumn Meeting – Marrakech, Morocco, 4 Oct. 2019
● **Coordination meeting with the CCT leadership** - Marrakech, Morocco, 3 Oct. 2019
● **5th Meeting of the CCT** at the 2019 Annual Session – Luxemburg, Luxembourg, 5 Jul. 2019
● **CCT Briefing before the Counter Terrorism Committee of the United Nations Security Council on parliamentarians’ contribution to counter-terrorism** – New York, USA, Jul. 2019


● **Thematic meeting on Terrorism of OSCE Security Committee** – Vienna, Austria, 20 May 2019

● **Coordination Meeting with the Slovak Chairmanship of the OSCE** – Vienna, Austria, 16 May 2019

● **Coordination Meeting with UNODC** - Vienna, Austria, 15 May 2019

● Briefing to participating States about the latest CCT efforts at the thematic meeting on terrorism of the Contact Group with the Mediterranean Partners for Cooperation – Vienna, Austria, 13 May 2019

● **Coordination Meeting with the Chair of the OSCE Security Committee** – Vienna, Austria, 8 May 2019

● Contribution to the **International Parliamentary Counter-Terrorism Conference + Bilateral Programme** – St. Petersburg, Russian Federation, 18 Apr. 2019

● Participation in the **ID@Borders & the Future of Travel Conference 2019 & “Introducing Biometries at the Border” Training Course** - Vienna, Austria, 11-12 Apr. 2019

● Contribution to the **OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on “Taking Stock of Efforts to Prevent and Counter Terrorism as well as Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism in the OSCE Area” + Bilateral Programme** – Bratislava, Slovakia, 25-26 Mar. 2019.

● **4th Meeting of the CCT** at the 2019 Winter Meeting - Vienna, Austria, 20 Feb. 2019

● **Official Visit to France** – Paris, France, 7-8 Feb. 2019

**Implemented in 2018**

● Chair’s visit to UN Headquarters and US Counter-terrorism Stakeholders - New York and Washington DC, United States of America, 3-7 Dec. 2018

● Contribution to a **Public Briefing before the US Helsinki Commission on “Fighting Terrorism Together: The Role of the OSCE”** – Washington DC, United States of America, 4 Dec. 2018

● Contribution to the Spanish Senate “Conference on Victims of Terrorism in the Sphere of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly” - Madrid, Spain, 15-16 Nov. 2018

● Presentation of the **OSCE PA Resolution on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and VERLT at the OSCE Security Committee + Bilateral Programme** – Vienna, Austria, 12 Nov. 2018

● Contribution to the **2nd OSCE-wide Seminar on Passenger Data Exchange and the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 2396** - Vienna, Austria, 1-2 Nov. 2018

● Contribution to the **Regional Conference on “Addressing Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Leads to Terrorism while Sharing Good Prison and Probation Service Management and Practices on Rehabilitation and Reintegration Programmes”** – Tirana, Albania, 01 Nov. 2018

● Written contribution to the **IIJ Expert Meeting on the GCTF Valletta Recommendations on the development of a Handbook on the Role of**
Parliamentarians in Developing an Effective Response to Terrorism – La Valletta, Malta, 1-2 Oct. 2018

- **3rd Meeting of the CCT** at the 2018 Annual Session - Berlin, Germany, 7 July 2018
- **Official Visit to Bosnia & Herzegovina** – Sarajevo/Travnik/Zenica, 5-8 June 2018
- Contribution to the regional Conference on Countering Violent Extremism: “The Reverse Flow of Foreign Terrorist Fighters” – Tirana, Albania, 26 May 2018
- Contribution to the OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Conference on the Challenges Posed by the Reverse Flows of the FTFs + Bilateral Programme – Rome, Italy, 10-11 May 2018
- Contribution to the International Parliamentary Conference on “Digital Resilience of a Democratic State” – Lisbon, Portugal, 8 May 2018

Implemented in 2017

- **Official Visit to the OSCE and UNODC** - Vienna, Austria, 12-14 Nov. 2017
- Contribution to the **OSCE Security Committee meeting on Countering Terrorism** (“Border security & Information Sharing: OSCE activities to counter the threats posed by the return of foreign terrorist fighters”) - Vienna, Austria, 16 Apr. 2018
- **Experts Coordination Meeting with IPA CIS** - St. Petersburg, Russian Fed., 11 Apr. 2018
- Contribution to the **Institute for Justice and Rule of Law (IIJ) Regional Workshop on “The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors in Counter Terrorism”** - Attard, Malta, 21-22 Mar. 2018
- **2nd Meeting of the CCT** at the 2018 Winter Meeting - Vienna, Austria, 22 Feb. 2018
- **Official Visit to Belgium** - Brussels, Belgium, 7-9 Feb. 2018

**OFFICIAL REPORTS**

- 13th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Plenary) - Vienna, Austria, 5 Jul. 2022
- 12th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) - Vienna, Austria, 25 Feb. 2022
- 11th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) – Vienna, Austria, 3 Nov. 2021
- 10th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Plenary) – Vienna, Austria, 6 July 2021
● 9th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) – Vienna, Austria, 24 Feb. 2021
● 8th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Bureau) – Online, 27 Apr. 2020
● 7th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) – Vienna, Austria, 20 Feb. 2020
● 6th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) – Marrakech, Morocco, 4 Oct. 2019
● 5th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Plenary) – Luxembourg, Luxembourg, 8 Jul. 2019
● 4th Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Plenary) – Vienna, Austria, 22 Feb. 2019
● 3rd Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) - Bishkek, Kirghizstan, 5 Oct. 2018
● 2nd Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Standing Committee) - Berlin, Germany, 7 Jul. 2018
● 1st Report of the Chair of the CCT (to the Plenary) - Vienna, Austria, 23 Feb. 2018

POLICY PROPOSALS

❖ OSCE PA Publication on Strengthening Border Security and Information Sharing in the OSCE Region - October 2019
❖ Resolution on the Challenges Related to Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters (adopted at the 28th Annual Session, Luxembourg, 4-8 July 2019)
❖ Resolution on Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism (adopted at the 27th Annual Session, Berlin, 7-11 July 2018)

SPECIAL INITIATIVES