



MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF OSCE PA  
THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

## PRESS RELEASE

### UNOCT and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly Deepen Strategic Partnership to Counter Terrorism through the Renewal of Cooperation Agreement

**New York, 21 May 2025** — The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) hosted a high-level delegation from the Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE PA) today at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The parties reaffirmed their commitment to continue and strengthen their collaboration on preventing and countering terrorism.

Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of UNOCT, and Ms. Pia Kauma, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, accompanied by Hon. Mr. Kamil Aydin, Chair of the OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Countering Terrorism, underscored the importance of parliamentary action in advancing multilateral counter-terrorism efforts.

A key highlight of the visit was the formal exchange of letters to renew the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNOCT and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Originally signed on 3 February 2020, the MoU has served as a cornerstone for an effective and forward-looking partnership in counter-terrorism. The renewal, now extending the collaboration for an additional five years, reflects a shared vision to further strengthen cooperation under the UNOCT Programme on Parliamentary Engagement in Preventing and Countering Terrorism.

**Mr. Vladimir Voronkov** emphasized that “the strong collaboration between the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement has significantly advanced global parliamentary engagement on countering terrorism. We view this partnership as a model for cross-regional cooperation in the field.”

**Ms. Pia Kauma**, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, stated: “The evolving nature of terrorism and its recruitment tactics demands strong international cooperation. Emerging technologies are increasingly exploited by terrorists amplifying the risk of online radicalization, particularly among youth. I thank the UNOCT for its vital work and strategic partnership during these challenging times.”

“Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to shape policies and legislation that address the root causes of terrorism while protecting fundamental rights,” said **Chair Kamil Aydın** while reflecting on OSCE PA’s two-year leadership of Global Coordination Mechanism for Parliamentary Assemblies on Counterterrorism. He emphasized the importance of maintaining momentum: “The Mechanism remains a privileged space for lawmakers to explore trends, exchange experiences and launch joint initiatives.”

Following this meeting, representatives of UNOCT, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly discussed priority areas for collaboration and enhanced engagement across global programmes of UNOCT. The parties also explored opportunities to deepen joint work on legislative support, capacity-building, and multilateral dialogue, particularly in supporting parliaments to ensure effective, human rights-compliant responses to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

## **Background**

The UNOCT Programme Office on Parliamentary Engagement in Counter-Terrorism and Prevention of Violent Extremism was launched in June 2021, with generous support from the Shura Council of the State of Qatar. The work of the Programme Office is guided by the UN Global Programme on Parliamentary Engagement, which is designed to assist parliamentarians in advancing the balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant Security Council resolutions.

As part of these efforts, the Counter-Terrorism Coordination Mechanism of Parliamentary Assemblies was established following the inaugural Assemblies’ Coordination Meeting in Doha on 13 December 2021. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly served as the first President of the Mechanism from June 2022 to December 2024. Under its leadership, the Mechanism convened five coordination meetings and four policy dialogues, addressing key issues such as Artificial Intelligence, the protection of vulnerable targets, border security, and prevention of radicalization. The Mechanism expanded from 9 to 17 participating assemblies across Africa, Asia, Europe, the MENA region, and Latin America, demonstrating its growing global impact.

\*\*\*

**For more information**, please contact: [Gerardl@un.org](mailto:Gerardl@un.org), Head of the Strategic Communications Unit, UNOCT