



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy, For everyone

**Regional workshop for parliamentarians on the challenges posed by a criminal justice preventative response to violent extremism leading to terrorism**

**31 January to 2 February 2017  
Aswan, Egypt**

Evolving terrorist threats to international security, as well as the development of new terrorist *modus operandi* and features, require constant adaptability and efforts from Member States to strengthen their capacities to face these emerging threats through a criminal justice and rule of law approach. Among such threats, the increasing phenomenon of violent extremism, in activities of terrorists groups have raised major concerns among Member States.

Countering extremism violence requires vigilant steps to be taken in order to contain the rise of online recruitment by countering the use of Internet for terrorist purposes. An attempt to cooperate with local religious clerics as a tool in countering Daesh/ISIL propaganda is also key to hamper its influence among the young population whom are the most vulnerable.

At UN level, the Secretary-General urged Member States to “consider developing a national plan of action to prevent violent extremism which sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers of violent extremism and complements national counter-terrorism strategies”. He particularly “encouraged parliamentarians to provide the legislative foundation for national plans of action for preventing violent extremism consistent with their national and international obligations, where necessary.”<sup>1</sup> The UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) also urges Member States to cooperate and consistently support each other’s efforts to counter violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including through capacity building, coordination of plans and efforts, and sharing lessons learned.

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<sup>1</sup> Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, Report of the Secretary-General, A/70/674, 24 December 2015.

In this context, the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC is planning to organise, jointly with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and in cooperation with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM), a regional workshop on the challenges posed by a criminal justice preventative response to violent extremism leading to terrorism for parliamentarians and policymakers from the beneficiary countries of the UNODC regional project on “Strengthening rule-of-law-compliant criminal justice responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa (2016-2017),” as well as from other countries, especially from the MENA and Gulf regions, from 31 January to 2 February 2017 in Aswan, Egypt.

This three-day regional workshop will bring together around 35 policymakers from the beneficiary countries and other countries in MENA and Gulf regions, to discuss and identify an effective national criminal justice strategy that addresses all the preventive aspects of counter-terrorism by specifically focusing on the measures to counter violent extremism including the legal approaches for effective criminal justice responses to the propaganda, the incitement and the recruitment as made by Daesh/ISIL.

The workshop will also address the parliamentary oversight and other applicable mechanisms and the good governance of the security sector in the fight against terrorism, as well as the respect for rule of law based and human rights compliant in investigation techniques in the fight against terrorism.

Finally, the workshop will provide a forum for exchanging information and good practices among parliamentarians on their role in developing and enacting legislation, translating the universal legal instruments against terrorism into national law, that should shape a comprehensive national plan addressing, *inter alia*, factors conducive to terrorism. In addition to UNODC and IPU experts, relevant experts from other regional/international organisations and Member States will be invited to contribute to this event.

The project is generously funded by the government of Japan and developed by UNODC/TPB, in order to broaden the scope of the technical assistance provided to the Governments of the Middle East region and to urgently support their efforts to face emerging threats and evolving aspects of terrorist activities in each country and in the region.