



European Union

***The Nexus of Parliamentarians and Criminal Justice Actors
in Counter Terrorism:
Implementing the GCTF Valletta Recommendations***

Regional Workshop

Corinthia Hotel, Attard, Malta

21-22 March 2018

DRAFT AGENDA

Wednesday, 21st March 2018

08:45 **Registration**

09:10 – 09:30 **Opening Remarks**

- Hon. Claudette Buttigieg, Deputy-Speaker of Malta House of Representatives
- EU Representative (TBC)
- Ms. Kathleen O' Connor, Director of Programs, IJJ

09:30 – 09:45 **Key note Address**

Hon. Mr. Carmelo Abela, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malta

09:45 – 10:10 **Photo Opportunity and Coffee Break**

10:10 – 10:40 **Tour de table: Workshop Objectives and Participants Introductions**

- Mr. Valerio de Diverdi, IJJ Program Manager

During the 2-day discussions parliamentarians, magistrates and international experts will discuss elements relevant to parliamentarians' capacities for counter terrorism. Sessions will expand on the *GCTF Valletta Recommendations Relating to Contributions by Parliamentarians In Developing an Effective Response to Terrorism* and will identify working streams for the vision of a new network of parliamentarians addressing violent extremism and terrorism prevention.

10:40 - 12:30

Thematic Discussion 1) Parliamentarians' role for International CT Judicial cooperation and Central Authorities' effectiveness: *Adoption of international CT law confers parliamentarians the critical task to assist respective countries' interpretation of international requirements for a consistent national CT vision. National legislatures enable international judicial and law enforcement cooperation on terrorist-related offences as per UN Security Council Res. 2322/2016. This recalls that all States shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings, including in obtaining evidence and urges States to act in order to find and bring to justice, extradite or prosecute any terrorism case related offender. The same resolution calls for the designation of mutual legal assistance and extradition Central Authorities or other relevant criminal justice authorities and ensure adequate resources, training and legal authority since their effective establishment is a precondition for evidence sharing and prosecution across jurisdictions. As set by the GCTF Valletta Recommendations: Parliamentarians are in the best position to draft laws in CT that meet international obligations while ensuring the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms including those rights relating to the criminal justice system (1); should develop and legitimize justice sector institutions (3); should ensure the required legal ground for Mutual Legal Assistance and cooperation within a robust rule of law framework (5).*

- 12:30 – 14:00** **Lunch and Coffee**
- 14:00 – 15:30** **Thematic Discussion 2) Cooperation with Internet Communication service providers:** *terrorist organisations have increasingly been exploiting the Internet and social media in recent years. Indoctrination, incitement, recruitment, and operational strategies aimed at terrorism pose crucial questions for judicial authorities' engagement with Internet communication service providers to impede their exploitation for radicalization and violent extremism. Parliamentarians exercise legislative and oversight functions that provide CT policies with public legitimacy for intervening against violent extremism practices on the Internet space. Equally important, is their role for safeguarding fundamental rights, as freedom of speech and data protection. The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) includes Google, Facebook, Microsoft and Twitter and works on technological solutions to help thwart terrorists' use of our services, and has built on the groundwork laid by the EU Internet Forum. Tech Against Terrorism is GIFCT official partner for assisting with content moderation and practices such as Internet Referral Units, trusted flaggers programmes and companies' transparency reporting on content removal.*
- 15:30 – 15:50** **Coffee Break**
- 15:50 - 16:45** **Open debate**
- 16:45** **Closing of the first day and admin remarks**

Thursday, 22nd March 2018

- 09:00 – 11:00** **Thematic Discussion 3) Parliamentary Oversight of intelligence in the context of a rule of law-compliant counter terrorism policies:** *Intelligence is key instrument for preventing terrorism and inform counter terrorism policies. At the same time, intelligence agencies' mandate is not to enforce the law and intelligence gathering practices should not lead not lead to discrimination and profiling. As set by GCTF Valletta Recommendations: parliaments should establish the legal framework that sets the powers and defines the limits of law enforcement and intelligence agencies. (9). Parliamentarians should further proactively ensure that the oversight mechanisms are timely and adapted to evolving circumstances and take in due account the various sectors and officials involved in the collection and analysis of intelligence. Importantly, the growing privatization and outsourcing of security and intelligence agencies' work by governments is also an element for parliamentarians' awareness and oversight duties with regard to counter terrorism goals.*

11:00 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 - 12:30	<p>Thematic Discussion 4) Ensuring CT policy inclusiveness and filling the gap between the executive branch and community-level stakeholders: <i>as set by GCTF Valletta Recommendations, as community leaders parliamentarians are also well positioned to foster interfaith and interethnic dialogue and work with religious and educational leaders. Parliamentarians have to ensure non-discriminatory practices and equality before the law, and should lead by example. They should foster inclusiveness and good governance mechanisms. It is therefore a good practice for parliamentarians to discuss and debate policies in a non-partisan, rational, accurate and non-demagogic style to encourage an informed and open national debate where different opinions and beliefs are respected, and to build public understanding, resilience, and consensus (6). Civil Society plays an essential role for awareness raising efforts against terrorism, including countering narratives for delegitimizing violent extremists’ views. CSOs also offer tools for monitoring the implementation of laws and policies designed to counter terrorism. Developing community outreach channels is a further role that parliamentarians can play, which helps to ensure an inclusive and sustainable support for national CT policies (7).</i></p>
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch and coffee
14:00 – 15:00	<p><i>Parliamentarians’ engagement for Counter Terrorism: handbook’s outline</i></p> <p><i>The themes to form an IJJ handbook to serve as a reference for parliamentarians working on counter terrorism will be presented. During a follow-up discussion participants will formulate suggestions in order to accurately develop this handbook.</i></p>
15:00 – 15:45	<p><i>Findings and the Way Ahead:</i> <i>existing challenges provide opportunities for parliamentarians to expand their direct engagement to address violent extremism and terrorism. During this discussion the opportunity of non-political platform composed by parliamentarians to keep the momentum achieved by the IJJ and the GCTF will be explored. Such thematic network could become a resource and an asset to support and collaborate with CT international fora as well as regional and international parliamentary assemblies.</i></p>
15:45 -16:00	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Kathleen O’ Connor, Programs Director IJJ - EU Representative (TBC) or Representative of maltese Parliament
16:00	Departure coffee