

2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Bin Salman al AbdululAziz bin al Saud,
Crown Prince and Minister of Defense, Ministers, Ambassadors,
Diplomats, Generals, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Asalamu Alaikom wa Rahmtu Allahi wa Barakato

First of all, let me thank you sincerely for inviting me to this important
conference. It is truly an honor and pleasure for me to address this
important gathering in your beautiful capital, Riyadh.

The meeting today shows our strength and unity against the common
enemy which threatens regional stability and prosperity. Today, it is my
honor to provide an overview of how we view the threat of terrorism to
regional and global stability, update you on our ongoing fight against
terrorism and Daesh, our perspective on the role the Islamic world can
play in countering terrorism, our expectation from this important forum
and the Afghan governments commitments to the Coalition, and its fight
against terrorism and Daesh. Afghanistan is one of the far most targeted
in terrorism; thousands of our citizens have lost their lives and no country
has paid a higher price in terms of human cost than my country.

As we combat this enemy every day we lose on average 24 Afghan security
personnel in the fight against terrorism. Today there are more than 20
terrorist groups operating in the South Ishira Region, with one third being
foreign fighters from many different nationalities. The Taliban movement
provides them safe haven and transit routes to destabilize Afghanistan and
other countries. Al Qaeda is still in our region and Daesh is trying to create
a foot hole.

In addition, the terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan enjoy a safe
haven across the border. They receive funding from a variety of sources,

chief among them is the drug trade, kidnapping, extortions, and illegal mining. It is for this reason that the Afghan government recently, made the decision to target the drug trade and the resources of financing terrorism in the Helmand provinces. These successful operations were only the beginning of the operations to eliminate financing operations through the drug trade in Afghanistan. We will defeat the Taliban through diplomatic, economic and military pressure. This application of power offers the Taliban space to lay down their arms, capsize international terrorism and reconcile. For these unwilling to peacefully negotiate we will eliminate them through continual combat operations.

This fight has cost us dearly, of human capital, destruction of our infrastructure and millions of dollars in terms of economic growth. It has also hampered multinational power, energy and transit projects, which his Excellency President of Afghanistan has envisioned for the region and Afghanistan. We must stop these terrorists together and improve peace and prosperity in the region.

Islamic countries can play a vital role in the fight against terrorism, specifically attacking their ideological, financial and recruitment basis. Therefore, I call upon on all diplomats, Defense Ministers and Defense Chiefs to consider the following 5 specific rules for Islamic countries in the fight against terrorism:

1. Establish joint intelligence sharing centres and pooling of resources,
2. Ask all of us to delegitimize and target the ideological appeal of terrorists,
3. Target the financial sources of terrorism in our countries,

4. Build an Islamic world consensus and action plan in the fight against terrorism,
5. Assist Afghan anti-terrorism activity, peace and reconciliation process with this element of Afghan Taliban who are willing to lay down their arms and join in a peaceful life

Together we will defeat terrorism and all benefit from this victory. The Afghan Government and the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces will be your reliable partner in this global Coalition against terrorism in Afghanistan and other regions. Its fight against terrorism and in accordance to its capabilities. In the end, let me assure you that you have a credible, hardworking, and trust worthy partner in the Afghan government who is striving very hard to realize security, peace and prosperity not only for its citizens, but the region and the world.

Thank you very much.