

2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التَّحَالُفُ الْإِسْلَامِيُّ الْعَسْكَرِيُّ لِجَلْبِ عِلْمَةِ الْإِرْتِهَابِ
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Islamic Republic of Pakistan

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman, honorable fellow Defense Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

My gratitude to His Majesty King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz, the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques for inviting me to participate in this First Meeting of the Defense Ministers of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC). I appreciate His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman for his leadership in this forum, HRH's dedication and energy are crucial for its success. I also take this opportunity to commensurate with our bothers in Egypt for the loss of precious lives in the recent terrorist attack. Such events reinforce the need and urgency to join hands in fighting terrorism.

Ladies and gentlemen,
Excellencies,

Pakistan and Saudi Arabia have stood resolutely by each other for decades. It is a bond of friendship imbedded in our shared religion and culture, and strengthened with our continued mutual support at every forum. We remain committed to countering terrorism, but international cooperation is absolutely vital in dealing with transnational threats such as terrorism and violent extremism. With generous resources dedicated to this cause by the leadership of Saudi Arabia, are highly commendable, be it within the IMCTC or the United Nations Counterterrorism Center in New York.

Excellencies,

Islam is the religion of peace, of reason, and of moderation. Indeed, it is the opposite of extremism and terrorism. As Muslims, we stand together to counter Islamophobia and unequivocally condemn those

who use misplaced ideas of religion to advance their nefarious agendas. Since 9/11, Pakistan with resolve and determination has played a key role in the global fight against terrorism. The sacrifices of our soldiers and of our citizens in this fight are unparalleled, both in human and financial terms. The success we achieved has ensured that the lives lost in this noble fight were not in vain. Developed in sync with United Nations' global counterterrorism strategy, Pakistan's strategy to counterterrorism is multi-pronged and multi-faceted. On one hand Pakistan launched the world's largest counterterrorism operation Zarb-e-Azab, followed by a nation-wide operation, Rad-ul-Fasad which has eliminated successfully the organized presence of terrorist networks, abettors, financiers and sympathizers from the Pakistani soil. On the other hand, we launched a comprehensive 20 point national action plan to defeat terrorist narratives and ideology across the country. It is our firm believe that while it is important to eliminate today's terrorists, it is also critical to address the enablers that produce tomorrow's terrorists.

His Royal Highness,

Excellences,

I have outlined briefly Pakistan's efforts and successes because they have a direct relevance to the work of this Coalition. The experience, expertise and capability we have developed in fighting terrorism and extremism can be of immense use to our brethren around this table. The appointment of General (Retired) Raheel Sahreef, Pakistan's former Chief of Army Staff as the Commander of IMCTC underscores these facts. As the IMCTC works and operations will progress at the requests of member states, the countries of the

Coalition can choose to benefit from Pakistan's experience in all four domains of counter terrorism. The training facilities of Pakistan's military and law enforcement agencies, the expertise of our trainers, our technical capabilities, the excellence of Pakistan's financial monitoring unit, sharing of information, the experience of Pakistan's deradicalization centers and the lessons we learned in developing and operating the comprehensive counter terrorism strategy are fully available to our Coalition partners. Together we can develop joined initiatives based on complementarity of our strengths to our collective benefits.

Excellencies,

Terrorism is fueled by many factors. Some of them beyond our national regional capabilities. Pakistan reaffirms the consensus of all Islamic countries, to completely root out terrorism and extremism. The international community must do more to end foreign occupation, resolve prolonged international conflicts and dissuade those who deny the legitimate right to self-determination to people living under foreign occupation. Just as we join hands at this forum to collaborate in the four areas we have identified today, we should reassert this shared belief to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism. I conclude by thanking once again HRH Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman for chairing this meeting which signifies the importance of the IMCTC. IMCTC will in shaa Allah, with our shared efforts achieve its shared goals.

Thank you very