

2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Republic of Turkey

In the Name of the Allah, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

His Royal Highness

Distinguished Ministers,

Peace, Mercy and Blessings of Allah Be upon You!

I wish today's meeting could contribute to our efforts to bring peace, security and prosperity to all Muslims and entire humanity, Allah willing.

Unfortunately, the Muslims and the Islamic countries are the ones who suffer most from instability and insecurity.

Terrorist organizations are attacking innocent people, some under the name of Islam. We condemn with strongest terms the latest massacre in Egypt and express our condolences. Attacking innocent Muslims at a Friday prayers is a great sin that no genuine Muslim can even think about. These murderers can in no way represent Islam. Yet, they can still exploit the divisions within the Islamic world. We have to act in solidarity. Unity is the only way we can deprive these terrorists of their justifications and excuses. Equally, a genuine unity requires us to overcome political, sectarian and ethnic tensions. From South-eastern Asia to Africa, from Caucasia to the Gulf region, we should refrain from the controversies, animosities and conflicts amongst the Muslim world. This plays into the hands of terrorists. In this turmoil, Muslims are being killed. Muslims are suffering. It is our duty, as Muslims, to stop this bloodshed. Islam, the religion of peace, so guides us.

Turkey hosts 3.2 Syrians who were forced to leave their homes as a result of terrorist attacks and brutal bombings. We have been helping them by all of our means in accordance of Islamic solidarity and brotherhood.

Thus, tensions within the Islamic world must urgently be tackled. Tolerance is key for stability in Gulf Region and Middle East. Issues in the Gulf can be best addressed by the Gulf countries themselves. It'd go through the Gulf Cooperation Council. The spirit of Islamic Solidarity must prevail everywhere in the Islamic world.

Dear brothers,

Addressing the root causes is simply not enough. We must effectively counter the terrorism together. We cannot wait and seek help from others to fight terrorism on our behalf. Those who suffer more would better alleviate their pains.

With this understanding, the Coalition initiative could also contribute to our common efforts against terrorism, by helping us in closing the ranks in the Muslim world.

In fact, our December 2015 Joint Statement reiterated a key principle: rejecting and combating terrorism in all forms and manifestations. Unfortunately, this principle is not globally upheld. Biased and indecisive approach by some countries vis-à-vis the FETÖ terrorist organization is an example.

Likewise, our constructive efforts in countering terrorism are being undermined by a big strategic and moral mistake. It is wrong to fight Daesh by partnering with another terrorist organization, PKK, PYD, YPG. It puts the future of Syria at risk, and threatens regional security and stability, as well.

We will not tolerate any terrorist threat, and continue to take all necessary measures against PKK, PYD, YPG without hesitation. We expect unreserved support by our friends in this fight.

Turkey is at the forefront in countering Daesh. The Operation Euphrates Shield was a clear demonstration of our determination.

In the meantime, our efforts to calm the situation in Syria are advancing the political process through Astana and Geneva meetings.

Moreover, we also combat extremist ideologies, foreign terrorist fighters while countering terrorist financing as well. Additional efforts in this context through the Coalition would also be beneficial.

Dear brothers,

We must aim at a truly functioning, effective and capable Coalition.

Turkey remains ready to work for this purpose.

Our determination to stand united against the scourge of terrorism is solid. With full solidarity, we can make our efforts in this regard more effective.

Thank you very much.