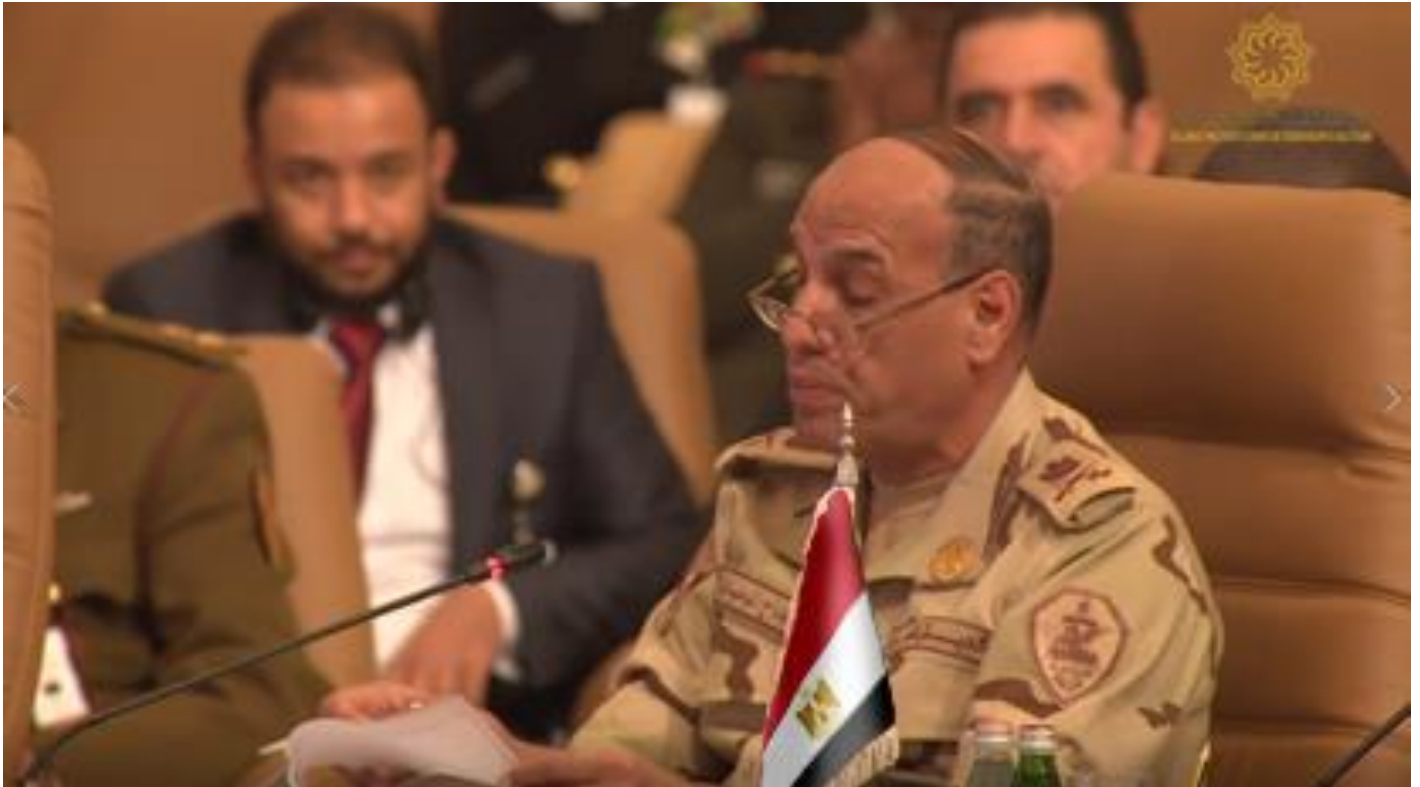


2017

Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC
Ministers of Defense Council



التحالف الإسلامي العسكري لمحاربة الإرهاب
ISLAMIC MILITARY COUNTER TERRORISM COALITION



Arab Republic of Egypt

In the name of Allah, most Gracious, most Merciful

Your Royal Highness Prince Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister, and Minister of Defense in Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,

Your Highnesses, Excellencies, and the Ministers of Defense of IMCTC Member Countries,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First, I would like to express my appreciations and gratitude to the generous invitation of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques to his brother, His Excellency President Abdul Fattah Al-Seesi to attend the Inaugural Meeting of the IMCTC Ministers of Defense Council. I would also like to thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the distinguished arrangements made for this important meeting, the warm reception and their hospitality.

We gather here today in our brotherly nation, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to renew and affirm our determination to fight the dreadful scourge of terrorism which has become a threat to all nations worldwide, without exception. It is considered a transnational threat and requires a prompt, collective, coordinated, and comprehensive response from all of our countries, in a manner that reflects the liability and determination to combat this serious threat.

An accurate reading of the history of terrorist groups, regardless of whether those groups use religion as a cover or practice terrorism with different motivations, emphasizes that there are no differences in the root causes of these groups, in the East or West. Radical terrorist ideology is based on false ideas and interpretations. A deviation from tolerant

teachings of divine religions. They pursue narratives and behaviours that provoke hatred and violence among communities to impose their false perceptions.

Terrorists groups no longer aim to achieve political, social and economic interests through violent behaviour. Their aim has evolved into an attempt to overthrow and divide sovereign nations to establish the so called, “Caliphate State”, on a wider global scale, centred in the Islamic and Arab world.

Discussion on how to achieve security and prosperity for our people; and how to combat terrorism in its frequent attempts to undermine development efforts will do no good without carefully reflecting on the nature of the environment that terrorism takes place. It is no secret that there are various strategic challenges. These challenges are all directly linked to the proliferation of armed conflicts which have served as a fertile environment for growth of terrorism and the spread of extremist ideas. The weakness and collapse of state institutions in some countries in the region during the last couple years has led to a vacuum, which was exploited by terrorist organizations and sectarian militias. Our responsibilities are becoming complicated as a result of the sophistication of terrorist groups and their possession of weaponry systems, that are similar to those of a standard army. Their resources, sources of funding, latest technological and informational capabilities, communications, and their ability to network, coordinate and manoeuvre themselves have led to their potential to disseminate Takfirist ideology and recruit new terrorist actors from all over the world through their exploitation of the

latest technologies, open spaces and the information and communication revolution.

Terrorism has become a transnational phenomenon, that bares consequences that threatens the security of any country in the world; whether it is a developed or a developing country, a rich or a poor. The problem is deepened by parties who go against the international, Islamic and Arab provisions, and oppose the values of humanity and civilization, and threaten international security and by providing safe havens, financing, weapons and physical assistance to terrorist groups. They dedicate their media to dissemination of subversion, incitement and reprimand among communities, they support terrorism and extremist ideologies directly or indirectly. This requires a firm international stance to reveal the truth of the roles and consequences of these practices, and the penalization of those responsible for violating international provisions an, peace and security.

Today's meeting, for the members of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition is a reflection of our will and determination to fight terrorism across the board. The Coalition has all the required components to combat terrorism and protect our nations and people. Islam's message is peace. Accordingly, we refuse any attempt to link terrorism with any religion, ethnicity or culture. We emphasize that our responsibility is not limited to addressing the military and security situation, rather we will comprehensive address this issue by giving attention to sentience. We will spread the culture of tolerance, co-existence and constructive cooperation between people, religions and cultures.

Through close collaboration with brotherly and friendly nations within the context of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition, coordination between the Coalition, international community and supporting nations will promote international counter terrorism efforts.

Egypt affirms its determination and commitment to combat all forms of terrorism. Counter terrorism's ideological origins, dry up its financing sources, and take all required action to deter and prevent terrorist crimes.

We call for the adoption of a comprehensive counter terrorism approach that is not limited to military and security aspects, but also factor the inclusion of economic, social, cultural and communications. The deterioration of these factors leads to the provision of a fertile environment that enables the spread of terrorism and extremism.

We welcome and follow with due respect the positive results achieved in the fight against terrorism, especially in Iraq and Syria. We look forward to collaborating closely to prevent the movement of terrorist groups and actors to other places, under the pressure of current military operations taking place in different regions of the world.

Our participation today in this important meeting reaffirms Egypt's commitment to collaborate with regional and international counter terrorism efforts that enhance security in the Gulf, since it is directly linked with the national security of Egypt. We promote solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the fight against terrorism, because it is a threat against all countries all over the world without exception.

In conclusion, allow me to express my heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the incident of the Masjid al-Rawdha in North Sinai. This heinous terrorist attack targeted unarmed worshipers during prayer,

which resulting in 350 deaths and 109 people injured. I can assure you that this incident will only make us more determined and firm in countering the menace of terrorism. May Allah, rest the souls of those worshipping victims with His mercy, and heal the injured in shaa Allah.

May Allah guide us in attaining security and peace for our people and nations, and ensure the progress of the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition.

Wa Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.