



مناخة

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IMCTC SECRETARY GENERAL MEETS WITH KENYAN MINISTER OF DEFENSE



On May 13, 2023, HE the Minister of Defense of the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Adam Duali Barre, received IMCTC Secretary General in the Kenyan capital Nairobi. The meeting discussed issues related to the fight against terrorism. It is noteworthy that this visit comes within the context of communication programs with IMCTC member countries intended to discuss all matters related to combating terrorism and extremism. The Republic of Kenya is a newly joined member country of IMCTC, particularly in early September 2022, thus increasing IMCTC member countries to 42 countries.

COMMANDER OF GCC UNIFIED MILITARY COMMAND VISITS IMCTC



On Wednesday, May 3, 2023, HE Lieutenant General Eid bin Awad Al-Shalawi, Commander of GCC Unified Military Command expressed his happiness with his visit to IMCTC. The visit included a tour of IMCTC's facilities accompanied by IMCTC's Secretary-General. Al-Shalawi highlighted the counter-terrorism efforts exerted by IMCTC in service of the Islamic and international worlds. He also stressed that since the leadership of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia believes in the importance of eliminating and fighting terrorism, it gives unlimited support and launches continuous initiatives for this purpose, most notably the establishment of IMCTC.

BANGLADESHI CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF VISITS IMCTC



On Thursday, May 25, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General received HE Lieutenant General SM Shafiuddin Ahmed, Chief of Army Staff, Bangladesh Army, and his accompanying delegation on a visit to IMCTC headquarters. His Excellency and the accompanying delegation toured IMCTC headquarters, and met with delegates of member countries. The Chief of Army Staff praised the efforts made by IMCTC in various counter-terrorism fields, stressing the distinguished role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in providing all means required to combat terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and fields.

IRAQI MILITARY INTELLIGENCE DIRECTOR VISITS IMCTC



On Tuesday, May 2, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi, met with HE Maj. Gen. Zaid Hoshi Khalaf Wadi, Director of Military Intelligence in the Republic of Iraq, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed issues of common interest between IMCTC and the Republic of Iraq. The delegation was briefed on IMCTC's efforts to combat terrorism in its four domains and its role in coordinating the counter-terrorism efforts exerted by its member countries.



YEMEN DELEGATES CELEBRATE 33RD UNITY DAY

On Monday, May 22, 2023, delegates of the Republic of Yemen to IMCTC held a ceremony on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the Unity Day of Yemen. The ceremony was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of member countries and IMCTC personnel. Lieutenant Colonel Fahd Ahmed Ali delivered a speech in which he said that on this particular day, Yemenis celebrate the 33rd anniversary of a dear event, namely the Unity Day of Yemen, which took place on 22 May 1990. This ceremony coincides every year with the wonderful anniversary of the unification of north and south Yemen into one strong and cohesive state. Yemen is considered one of the oldest centers of civilization in the ancient world. The ancient kingdoms of Yemen, such as Saba (Sheba), Ma'in, Qataban, Himyar and Hadhramaut, were famous for developing one of the oldest alphabets in the world known as the Musnad script.

Ali then recited some poetic verses:

- Happy Yemen, a greeting that history draws from the past of times
- land of Belqis (Queen of Sheba) and Kings of Tubba'
- Land of Himyar and the tribes of King Dhi Yazan

Oh masters of days and time, you who destroyed Taq Kasra (Khosrow's Palace) once he dared to invade your lands with his ships.

He added that this great occasion reminds Yemenis of the sacrifices, patience, and determination of their people from the 1962 revolution, in which they defeated the Imamate, until the 1967 revolution, which evicted the last British troops from southern Yemen and achieved Yemeni unity on such a blessed day. Stable and coherent unity became a goal that every Yemeni strives for with all effort and determination.

Despite all the challenges that accompanied the Yemeni unity for more than three decades, it is still as stable as the high mountains of Yemen, despite the challenges, crises and coups it has encountered, most notably the coup of the terrorist Houthi militia against the legitimate government in 2014. Eight years ago, the terrorist Houthi militia turned against the State and took control of its institutions, plundered the public treasury, killed Yemeni children, women, and elderly people, blew up mosques, looted homes and property, kidnapped politicians, media professionals, and journalists. It also planted mines and explosive devices, bombed civilian objects in neighboring countries, and threatened international navigation in

the Red Sea. The battles are still under way with the support of the brothers in the Arab Coalition led by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to eliminate this gang supported by external powers and to return Yemen to the Arab nation. Yemen is looking forward to a better future in which all Yemenis will participate and achieve a fair distribution of power and wealth through the outcomes of a comprehensive national dialogue, and by peaceful means. This would contribute to building a strong country open to the world and able to achieve political and economic goals and future partnerships that serve the Yemeni people and help to achieve prosperity and security for the entire population of this dear country.

Ali added that Yemenis are now celebrating, expressing their happiness and dreaming of the day when peace and security will be achieved in all parts of Yemen. It was announced on Thursday, 4/7/2022 that a Presidential Leadership Council comprising eight members would be formed to complete the implementation of the tasks of the transitional phase in the country, led by Dr. Rashad Al-Alimi, who was granted all the powers of the President and Vice President. This Presidential Council will proceed with the next stage and lead the country to victory in the battle to liberate Yemen. It will fulfill the will of Yemeni people who, despite all circumstances, aspire to a modern state that is stronger, more coherent and just, a state where the rule of law, equality, rights and freedoms prevail. Yemenis welcome the peace that achieves security and stability for their country and for the whole region based on the three references stated in the Security Council Resolution no. 2216, the GCC initiative, and the outcomes of the national dialogue, and that guarantees security in the region and safety of maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. Peace is the only means to achieve cooperation and understanding between peoples.

Ali concluded his speech by thanking and appreciating the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led by the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and his Crown Prince, HRH Prince Mohammad bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, as well as the government and people of the Kingdom. Both the leaders and people of Saudi Arabia have stood by the Yemeni people in their various crises, and have shown great examples of brotherhood and the right of neighborliness. They have also extended their hands to the Yemeni people in various political, military, humanitarian and other fields.

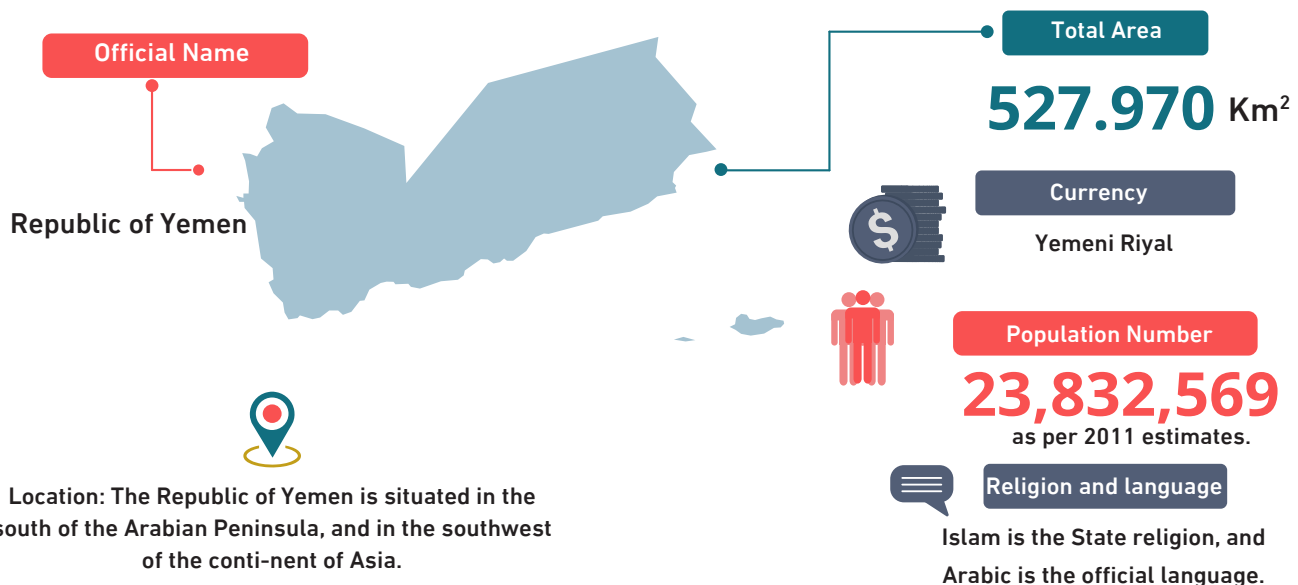
Ali added that Yemenis would like to renew their full commitment



to cooperating with IMCTC and the Coalition to Support Legitimacy, as well as the regional and international community, in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and will not allow any terrorist group or activity to exist on their lands. This will include securing international navigation, combating smuggling and piracy, and protecting Yemeni coasts. In the end, he stated that the delegates of Yemen to IMCTC would like to extend their sincere thanks to IMCTC Secretary-General for giving them

this opportunity to celebrate their national day, and to IMCTC's International Cooperation and Coordination Department and all other departments for their efforts and continuous cooperation that helped us to overcome all the difficulties that we encountered in performing our duties.

At the end of the ceremony, a video clip about the Republic of Yemen was screened, showing the historical, natural, economic and cultural aspects of the Republic of Yemen.



Overview of the Republic of Yemen

The name "Yemen" is derived from the Arabic word "yomn", which refers to prosperity and blessing. Until 1990, Yemen consisted of two countries known as the Arab Republic of Yemen in the north, and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in the south.

Climate: Yemen overlooks two seas: the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. However, the climate of Yemen has not benefited much from this marine location except in increasing air humidity on the coasts.

Economy: Yemeni economy relies on agriculture, livestock, fisheries, and oil. Major natural resources include oil, gas, gold,

silver, and zinc. The main commodity exports comprise oil, fish, and agricultural crops. Major industries include textile, agate, and oil. Yemen's main ports include Aden, Al Mukalla, Salif, Al Hudaydah, Mocha, and Nishtun

Tourist Areas: Yemen contains many natural and historical attractions. It has five archaeological sites classified as world heritage: Socotra Archipelago, Old City of Sana'a, Shibam Hadramout, ancient Kingdom of Saba in Marib, and historic town of Zabid.

Source: <https://yemen-nic.info/yemen/>



ADVISOR EL HADI MAJDOUB REVIEWS UPDATED ARAB COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

On Wednesday, May 17, 2023, IMCTC held a lecture entitled “The Updated Arab Counter-Terrorism Strategy,” which was delivered by HE Mr. Al-Hadi Majdoub, Advisor to Naif Arab University for Security Sciences. The event was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of member countries and IMCTC personnel. The lecture highlighted IMCTC’s pursuit of its targeted strategy through the exchange of information and intelligence data between member countries to combat terrorism. It also aimed to support the compliance of IMCTC member countries with international standards in combating terrorist financing and related policies and legislation, and cooperation and partnerships with international centers and organizations to update the counter-terrorism capabilities of member countries. The lecture addressed a number of issues, most notably the importance of international cooperation in the field of terrorism.

Majdoub indicated that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism has always been a complicated and cross-border challenge and a multifaceted threat. For this reason, it requires regional and international cooperation to eliminate terrorist acts, methods and practices in all their forms and manifestations.

From this standpoint, in the immediate aftermath of the attacks of September 11, 2001 on the United States of America, the UN Security Council imposed mandatory obligations on member countries in the field of combating terrorism and violent extremism. The Council called on all countries to cooperate in preventing and suppressing terrorist attacks, take measures against their perpetrators, particularly through bilateral and multilateral arrangements and agreements, to “become parties as soon as possible to the relevant international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism...”, and to fully implement them.

In 2006, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a tool to strengthen national, regional and international efforts.

In this context, and at the regional level, since the 1990s, Arab countries have played a central role in updating regional tools and mechanisms to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism. In this regard, it can be said that the Arab experience is one of the richest in countering terrorism and extremism, and a model for regional cooperation in this field, despite its limited shortcomings.

HE Advisor Majdoub also highlighted the Arab efforts in the field of combating terrorism. Arab countries were proactive in confronting the spread of terrorism and violent extremism. These efforts, among several measures and procedures, led to setting up a diverse and integrated set of counter-terrorism agreements, strategies and plans.

In the first place, Arab countries launched an initiative in 1996 to adopt a code of conduct for member countries of the Arab Interior Ministers Council to combat terrorism. In 1997, the Council approved the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy, which includes a number of objectives aimed at coordinating efforts to combat terrorism in Arab countries and strengthening international cooperation in this field.

Likewise, a joint meeting between the Arab Interior and Justice Ministers Councils in 1998 approved the Arab Convention on Combating Terrorism. In 2000, a mechanism was adopted to implement this Convention, which included 52 executive measures in the field of security and judicial cooperation between Arab countries. Given the close link between international terrorism and transnational organized crime, the Arab Ministers of Justice and Interior also approved in 2010 the Arab Convention on Combating Transnational Organized Crime, which established a regional approach to prevent and combat this crime in the security and judicial fields.

On the same date, the two councils also approved the Arab Convention on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism, with the aim of strengthening Arab cooperation in this field, and followed it with the Arab Strategy for Combating Money Laundering

and the Financing of Terrorism in 2014.

Earlier, the Arab Interior Ministers Council also approved in 2013 the Arab Strategy for Intellectual Security, which is particularly important due to its role in countering the ideas promoted by deviant ideological currents, promoting sound values and principles, and showing the true face of Islam. The Council also approved in 2016 the Arab strategy for the non-proliferation of illicit arms in the Arab region, which aimed to prevent and combat arms smuggling across national borders and to secure the various border crossings.

In addition, the dynamic efforts and determination of Arab countries in combating terrorism and preventing violent extremism were activated by setting an updated version of the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy approved in 1997, which underscores the vital priority of the counter-terrorism issue.

Majdoub further addressed the development of the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy, as the Arab Interior Ministers Council approved this strategy on the basis of a number of objectives aimed at coordinating counter-terrorism efforts in Arab countries and strengthening cooperation with the international community in this field. In 2015, the Council approved an update of this strategy, in light of the new data at the time.

Majdoub stressed the fact that in recent years, and in view of the reported political and security developments, the phenomenon of extremism and terrorism had taken on threatening dimensions, which posed an unprecedented challenge for Arab countries in particular. It thus became clear that the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy approved in 1997 no longer adequately accommodated the latest developments in this field.

His Excellency also highlighted the objectives and principles of the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy and explained that it aimed to strengthen joint Arab action to prevent and combat terrorism and address the conditions that led to its spread, and to take all relevant measures through building and developing capabilities, respecting human rights, values and moral considerations at both the individual and societal levels in the Arab world. All these measures sought to protect the foundations of legitimacy and the rule of law, clarify the true image of Islam and Arabism, maintain the security and stability of the Arab world, and protect it from extremism and terrorism.

This updated version of the Strategy was drafted on the basis of guiding principles emanating from Arab and international agreements and documents related to combating terrorism. It was also built on the strengths and recommendations derived from the actual implementation of the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy in its original version, while keeping abreast of changes and developments. Furthermore, it took into account all emerging challenges relating to terrorist activities, through a careful analysis including detection of the methods used by terrorist organizations to implement their plans.

Majdoub made it clear that the Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy is composed of four pillars that coincide with the pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, **only differing in content and details:**

1. Measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.
2. Measures to prevent and combat terrorism.
3. Measures to build capacity to prevent and combat terrorism.
4. Measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.

Majdoub further shed light on the distinctive features of the updated

Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy and explained that this update was the outcome of significant participatory efforts among all Arab countries. This approach is extremely vital to enhance countries' commitment to implementing the strategy. The contents of the updated Strategy are characterized by logical sequence and integration in formulating its pillars on the basis of protection from terrorism up to providing a framework for human rights guarantees. He also indicated that the updated Strategy is comprehensive and takes into account the national, Arab and international levels. It thus constitutes a practical translation of the Arab and international efforts in the field of combating terrorism and violent extremism. The Strategy observes the specific culture and conditions of the Arab region and the tolerant values of the Islamic religion, in addition to human rights guarantees.

The Strategy also guarantees the active engagement of a variety of parties. It relies in combating terrorism on the concerted efforts of the relevant agencies in all state sectors, including governmental and non-governmental sectors. A more crucial measure was to allow for a periodic review of the Strategy, by monitoring and following up on the progress made in its implementation, and by ensuring its continuous updating in response to all challenges and developments. The updated Strategy is also characterized by simplicity and potential for smooth implementation, as it was formulated in a manner that avoided complexity, which reflected positively on the coordination processes between the various parties involved in its implementation. In this context, the Arab Interior Ministers Council was keen to set an implementation plan to translate the goals of the Strategy into applicable programs. The Council approved the first interim executive plan (2023-2025) during its meeting held in Tunisia on March 1, 2023, under the name "the Executive Plan for the Updated Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy". This plan aimed to implement the main components of the Strategy through a coherent system of programs and within a variety of implementation means. The plan used a number of integrated implementation methods, mainly including the following: enhancing international cooperation and immediate exchange of information related to combating extremism and terrorism and its financing; exchanging distinctive experiences and best practices; conducting research, survey studies, analytical reports and working papers; drafting and updating model plans and guiding mechanisms; and designing training and educational programs.

Advisor Majdoub concluded his lecture with an explanation of the agencies in charge of implementing the Executive Plan for the Updated Arab counter-Terrorism Strategy. He pointed out that the plan was determined to be implemented by an integrated system of joint efforts, mainly including the General Secretariat of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, as the executive organ of the Council, and the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences, as the scientific organ of the Council. The plan is also marked by its focus on partnership and cooperation with regional and global organizations and bodies concerned with countering terrorism, in accordance with the framework agreements and memorandums of understanding concluded by the Council with these organizations, such as the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), the European Police Service (EUROPOL), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).



JORDAN'S DELEGATES CELEBRATE 77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY

On Thursday, May 25, 2023, delegates of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to IMCTC held a ceremony celebrating their country's 77th independence day. The ceremony was attended by IMCTC Secretary-General, delegates of member countries and IMCTC personnel. On this occasion, Colonel Talal Saud Al-Jabbour delivered a speech in which he explained that Jordanian people celebrate on May 25th every year the anniversary of their own independence, the day on which Jordan became independent, built its state with its modest capabilities, and made many achievements in all fields. He added that this celebration of the anniversary of independence serves to commemorate a national ceremony and to inspire Jordanian people with the sublime values and noble goals it entails, in order to serve their homeland, uphold its position, maintain its unity, protect its identity and fundamentals, defend its sanctities, and promote its renaissance. While Jordanians are celebrating their independence day, they remember with feelings of pride their kings who belong to pure Hashemite origins and who ruled the country in succession since its establishment and independence. The list of Hashemite kings starts with the founding King Abdullah I bin Al-Hussein, succeeded by his son, King Talal, who assumed power in 1951, and during whose reign the Jordanian constitution was drawn up. Then King Hussein Bin Talal followed; he assumed power in 1953 and managed to consolidate the pillars of the Kingdom and to continue the process of building the modern state over 47 years of rule up to King Abdullah II bin Al-Hussein, who came to power in 1999 to complete the process of development and renaissance up to the present day. During the reign of His Majesty King Abdullah II, Jordan began to complete the process of independence, by building the country, and by following up on the achievements made, as part of a forward-looking vision that keeps pace with changes and moves towards new horizons while maintaining the Jordanian identity, national constants, and inclusive values. These achievements led Jordan to witness a comprehensive qualitative leap in various sectors that pushed Jordan to be among the developed countries in the sectors of education, health, medical tourism, youth, information technology, entrepreneurship and other sectors. All these efforts have been accompanied by promotion of the country's position in the regional and international arena.

In his speech, Al-Jabbour added that with its wise Hashemite leadership, Jordan was able to overcome all challenges and difficulties and to prove to the whole world that Jordan is strong

with its leadership, its people, its Arab army, its social fabric, the peaceful coexistence of its people, its steadfast stances, its moderation and its friendly communication with its brothers and friends. The result was that Jordan became a tourist and economic destination and center of attraction, and a safe haven within a troubled area to which neighbors, relatives and friends turn when calamities, conflicts and wars befall them. Despite its limited resources and capabilities and its small area, Jordan has become a compassionate heart, a warm home, and a permanent residence for brothers and friends. The Kingdom's lands now accommodate refugees from more than 44 nationalities. Thus, Jordan – which provides all these refugees with shelter, humanitarian relief, medical care, and education – was classified by the United Nations to be hosting the second largest percentage of refugees in the world compared to its population size. This embodies all the meanings of achievement in international politics, diplomacy, and comprehensive development at the political, economic, social, educational, medical, and scientific levels. For these reasons, Jordan enjoys international respect, which serves as firm evidence that these actions are stemming from a wise Hashemite leadership that led Jordan through the stages of independence to the shores of safety despite the great challenges it had encountered and the calamities that the region had gone through. In the context of Jordan's foreign relations, the country has been keen under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II to strengthen its relations on the basis of respect and willingness to support all efforts aimed at eliminating violence taking place in several countries. It has also endeavored to develop its relations in all fields with the Arab countries, based on its belief in a common Arab destiny. Jordan has emphasized its commitment to achieving Arab solidarity and closing Arab ranks and its decline to interfere in the internal affairs of others. It has also endeavored to put in place a system of joint Arab cooperation and action as a means to achieve the aspirations of peoples to live in peace and security, and to call for international cooperation to protect humanity, both individuals and groups, from the threats of terrorism in all its forms. Jordan's relations with Arab and Islamic states, particularly its relationship with its big sister the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, are examples of Arab and Islamic cooperation in all fields. It represents a bright image that can be made use of as a cornerstone to enhance joint Arab and Islamic action, which is now receiving increasing interest from the Hashemite Kingdom of



Jordan and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at all levels to improve bilateral relations and serve common interests. Such joint action will also maximize benefit from the fraternal and historical ties between the two countries, which His Majesty King Abdullah II and the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and his Crown Prince, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, are keen to develop and build on.

Al-Jabbour concluded his speech by stating that on that occasion Jordanian people would renew the meanings of pride in assuming their duties towards their country and protecting the gains and achievements of independence. Jordanians are also looking forward with determination and confidence to a better future under

the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah II. This celebration of the Independence Day will always remind Jordanian people of the distinguished status of their Hashemite Kingdom. It will also reflect the essential pillars of the process of renaissance, construction and national achievement, and will serve as a clear evidence to their country's ability to overcome challenges and difficulties. At the end of his speech, Al-Jabbour called upon Allah Almighty to protect Jordan from evil, and perpetuate the blessings of security, safety, continuous progress and prosperity on his dear homeland. Happy new independence year to Jordan, its people, and its leadership, and to the Arab and Islamic nation.

Official name
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Location: Jordan is situated in southwestern Asia.

Total Area
89.213 Km²

Currency
Jordanian Dinar

Population Number
11,300,000

Religion and language
Islam is the State religion, and Arabic is the official language. English is the first foreign language.

Overview of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Name: The word "Jordan" (Al-Urdunn in Arabic) consists of two syllables: "Jor" and "Dan" which refer to the two northern tributaries of the Jordan River. With the passage of time, the word came to be pronounced "Urdan" and " Urdunn". The Arabs called this region "Al-Urdunn", which means "strength and predominance". "Jordan" was also said to be one of the descendants of Prophet Noah. The Greek name for Jordan is "Jordanem" and "Jordan", meaning slope or abyss.

Tourism: Jordan is a country with established historical roots. Various civilizations, kingdoms and entities lived on its lands, and the country used to be a model of ongoing civilizational interaction, as it was inhabited from the dawn of history until the modern times.

Climate: The climate of Jordan is a combination of the Mediterranean and arid desert climates, where the Mediterranean climate prevails in the north and west of the country, while the desert climate prevails in the majority of the country.



FAISAL BIN MUAMMAR LECTURES AT IMCTC

Dialogue was and still is the first building block in every civilization, ideology and development. Dialogue has become an urgent necessity in our present time in light of the disappearance of the traditional old borders (the concept of a small global village) and global openness. Since dialogue stands for the highest degree of counter-terrorism, IMCTC seeks to emphasize the intellectual efforts and highlight the tolerant principles of Islam. One of IMCTC's goals is to prepare integration and rehabilitation programs for those embracing extremist ideology, and to push the religious discourse towards a greater degree of moderation. In this context, on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, HE Mr. Faisal bin Abdulrahman bin Muammar, General Supervisor of the SALAM Project for Cultural Communication, delivered a lecture entitled "Role of Dialogue in Countering Terrorism". His Excellency started his lecture by stating that dialogue is an existential condition for man. The value of dialogue as a tool of human communication and understanding puts us before a foundational necessity that we should place this dialogue in the framework of other interrelated and associated concepts. In this latter case, dialogue will be reflected as a complex identity with many masks in human activity since ancient times. The development of human life through continuous processes and sustainable transformations of human dialogue relations has made dialogue a most valuable tool for human beings to express their steady progress in the courses of life, especially as the types and levels of dialogue varied in human life.

Islam made dialogue an essential element in the light of its value as a human principle that is susceptible to all kinds of human differences of opinion. The Holy Qur'an determines that dialogue in principle is a guaranteed means for all human beings; that is, there is a capacity for dialogue in everything and about everything, even if the content of this dialogue includes questions that delve into unspoken issues. Questioning thus is one of the gates of dialogue, and freedom is a precondition for dialogue. Since freedom is a form of will, the Holy Qur'an states {Whoever wills let them believe, and whoever wills let them disbelieve} (Surah Al-Kahf, verse: 29), thus giving human beings absolute freedom so long as they are endowed with discretion, discernment and reason.

As for the art of rhetoric and dialogue among the Arabs, the language of the Holy Qur'an contained several rhetorical challenges to the pre-Islamic Arab community, whose members were distinguished by eloquence and speech skills. This indicates that ingenuity in expression and dialogue was a major literary art of that era. For example, the Seven Hanging Odes of Mecca (Mu'allaqat) were among the most informative examples of Arabic rhetoric in pre-Islamic times. Perhaps the dialogue that took place between two lead-

ers of the Bani Tamim tribe, who were delegates to Prophet Mohamed, the Messenger of Allah, in the "am al-wufud" (the year of the delegations) was the reason why the Prophet said in amazement, "Some eloquent speech has the influence of magic" (narrated by Al-Bukhari).

Islamic history has witnessed various dialogues after the murder of the third Rightly Guided Caliph Othman bin Affan in which eloquence, opinion-making and gaining sympathies were evident.

■ Dialogue in Saudi Arabia

An important major historical event at the dawn of the 20th century was that the era of the Third Saudi State coincided with King Abdulaziz's conquest of Riyadh. Historically speaking, the establishment of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia went through three stages: the First Saudi State, the Second Saudi State, and finally the Third Saudi State with the beginning of the era of King Abdulaziz bin Abdulrahman Al-Faisal. King Abdulaziz established unique systems of understanding to manage differences and to address the challenges of the foundational stages of the State under very difficult conditions; that is, he started from almost zero point, and established the identity of the Kingdom based on unification and unity in face of a thousand years of isolation and dispersal among the tribes of the Arabian Peninsula. In all stages of establishment and the subsequent phases of expansion and state building that followed, we can see the clear vision and faith of the leaders of this country in managing differences and embracing dialogue as a necessary condition for building common grounds with others, most notably at the stage of resettlement and urbanization of nomads. This was one of the most important projects in which the spirit and meaning of dialogue was manifested. It sought to achieve stability and spread knowledge among the nomadic Bedouins, thus becoming the largest human investment to transform the second and third generations into the national competencies we see today, namely transforming their members into graduates of the best universities and educational institutions. In addition, dialogue comes front and center at the level of the Arab nation, especially with regard to the Palestinian Cause, and at the level of the Islamic nation, most notably through Islamic solidarity and building prestigious Islamic institutions, such as the Muslim World League, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the Islamic Development Bank and others. Dialogue at the international level has included political and economic dimensions, mainly participation in the establishment of international organizations, most notably the United Nations.

The attacks of September 11, 2001 represented a major point of

confrontation with the sources of terrorism and extremism. The turbulent conditions that the world witnessed in the first half of the first decade of the new millennium clearly revealed the importance of thinking about addressing the challenges and the urgent need of decision-makers to adopt new strategies to address the new crises, particularly after the failure of the military, security and political solutions adopted by the West in restoring stability and cohesion to a number of Arab and Islamic countries.

Following these attacks, the Islamic world, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, encountered frantic political and media campaigns trying to disintegrate the Arab countries, at the top of which was the so-called Arab Spring. Saudi Arabia took firm steps to combat extremism and terrorism, and maximized its efforts in international action and security coordination with world countries. International institutions, led by the United Nations, made various efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, which started to target the entire world, not only a specific region or religion. Saudi Arabia led the way to establish a global initiative to combat terrorism and extremism in the United Nations. The Kingdom launched local, regional and global initiatives. Unprecedented projects were established, including the National Dialogue Project in 2003, to combat extremism, consolidate moderation, and renew religious discourse. These efforts served as coping mechanisms to carry out new tasks of dialogue in the Saudi society and to develop a dialogue strategy within the Kingdom's comprehensive development and modernization project.

For these reasons, the modern national role of institutional dialogue focuses on activating the role of the elites of Saudi society in an unconventional way to address the challenges. It seeks to provide a channel for responsible expression that would have an effective impact in combating intolerance, fanaticism, and extremism, and creates a pure atmosphere from which wise stances and enlightened opinions that reject terrorism and terrorist ideology would emerge. The local and global uniqueness of this project lies in engaging all segments of society in confronting the threats of extremism and terrorism and in re-engineering thinking in society to be compatible with this dangerous historical stage.

We have sought to combat ideological and doctrinal classifications and to establish moderation. Moreover, our long-term goal has become to institutionalize dialogue and involve the society in addressing thorny issues so that its members would become immune to chaos.

Therefore, we can refer to the unique and unprecedented nature of the Saudi experience of national and global dialogue and emphasize that it has contributed to the formation of national and civilizational values that made it possible to understand the present and the future. This national vision would later play a significant national role in the Kingdom's Vision 2030, by qualifying our young men and women and providing them with the necessary knowledge and information to take part in the national and global dialogues, by creating initiatives for the growth and progress of our society, and by addressing all various types of extremist and terrorist ideologies. This Vision would also encourage the young generation to accept the other and be acquainted with its various cultures, and would stress the significant impact of this process on the dialogue between the followers of different religions and cultures, as a major and pivotal alternative to conflict, disagreement, and rejection and exclusion of the other.

■ SALAM Project for Cultural Communication

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has become a leading country in promoting coexistence, countering extremism and terrorism, and establishing peace. Through this pioneering experience, we have realized how important it is to be well-prepared to enter the field of local and global dialogue, and to be equipped with dialogue and communication skills to be able to go through intellectual and ide-

ological discussions. Through the Kingdom's Vision 2030 and during this prosperous era under the reign of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz, and his Crown Prince and Prime Minister, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Kingdom has founded several important institutions, such as the Ideological Warfare Center of the Saudi Ministry of Defense, which is entrusted to eliminate the roots of extremism and terrorism and show true Islamic values and principles. In addition, the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology (Etidal) is the top reference center in the world in countering extremist ideology, promoting a culture of moderation, and in monitoring, analyzing and anticipating extremist ideology. Etidal seeks to address and prevent the threats of extremism by cooperating with relevant governments and organizations, publishing principles of tolerance and moderation, emphasizing the opportunities for world peace, and combating extremist ideology. Likewise, the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) is a huge Islamic military alliance which includes under its umbrella 42 member countries aimed at combating terrorist activities and violent extremism in the world. IMCTC owns a platform through which member countries cooperate in several areas to implement effective programs and initiatives to combat extremism, as well as comprehensive value-added services for member countries to develop their capabilities in this regard. This platform employs the latest technology and uses the best international standards and practices to achieve excellence in ideological and practical leadership.

Other cultural and historical initiatives comprise the Makkah Document, which was drafted by the Muslim World League in 2019 and unanimously approved by 1,200 Muslim figures from 139 countries during the era of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and his Crown Prince, HRH Prince Mohammed bin Salman, in the context of their generous support for any effort aimed to achieve good for all the peoples of the earth and to recover the true values of Islam which call for all noble religious and human values, most notably moderation. This document simultaneously constitutes a cultural and historical constitution for enhancing peace in Islamic countries, countering extremism and terrorism in all their forms, and respecting human rights. These institutional and sustainable activities and initiatives are also compatible with the United Nations sustainable human development goals and with the outputs of both Western and Islamic civilizations. These activities and initiatives will certainly have beneficial effects and will strengthen and support IMCTC's determination to counter extremism and terrorism, especially with help from brotherly and friendly countries calling for peace and international organizations, which would effectively contribute, together with other international efforts, to maintaining international peace and security.

Bin Muammar concluded his speech by stressing the importance of strict laws and regulations that criminalize extremism, terrorism and hate speech. We have seen fruitful results in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as these laws have emphasized the religious and moral aspects in service of society and maximized the authority of laws, regulations, and decisions to stand against any attempt by deviant and terrorist groups to destabilize the Kingdom and IMCTC member countries, or to distort the image and tolerance of Islam and Muslims. These laws further improved the level of Islamic solidarity among IMCTC member countries and contributed to the maintenance of international peace and security by providing added value in the international efforts to counter extremism and terrorism. The Kingdom has achieved unprecedented success and superiority with its modernized and updated projects and initiatives based on its religious and cultural identity, associated with its past origins and future hopes.

IMCTC DELEGATION VISITS SAQR AL-JAZEERA MUSEUM



On Wednesday, May 10, 2023, an IMCTC delegation composed of delegates of member countries visited the Saqr Al-Jazeera Aviation Museum in Riyadh. The delegation was briefed on the contents of the museum, namely historical documents and aircraft displaying the inception and development of the Royal Saudi Air Force (RSAF). This visit was made as part of the activities of the annual program for delegates of member countries, which

includes many various field visits to exhibitions and museums to get acquainted with and open up to the culture and history of the headquarters state. The visit to the Saqr Al-Jazeera Aviation Museum is an example of those cultural activities, through which the delegates of member countries are briefed on the historical development of RSAF and learn about its various contributions. Worthy of note is that the Saqr Al-Jazeera Aviation Museum





is concerned with aviation and related sciences. It exhibits a continuous journey of success for more than a hundred years, starting from the moment when aircraft were seen in the skies of the Arabian Peninsula in 1333H, passing through King Abdulaziz's possession of aircraft, and finally the establishment of the first air force in 1344H. This Museum does not merely exhibit the past, but its collections show a mixture of the ancient past with its historical collections, aircraft and documents, and the present with its great

technological progress in the field of aviation. The Museum was inaugurated on 7/10/1419H under the auspices of HRH Prince Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, the then Crown Prince, Deputy Prime Minister and Chief of the National Guard. The Museum also displays a large collection of aircraft, items, photos, historical documents, and a number of films on RSAF's history and operations. Some of the museum corners contain bright and distinctive booths.



IMCTC BIDS FAREWELL TO AND RECEIVES CÔTE D'IVOIRE DELEGATES



On Thursday, May 4, 2023, the delegate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Captain Musa Soumahoro, assumed his duties at IMCTC headquarters. Soumahoro was received by IMCTC Secretary-General, who wished him success in performing his duties. Afterwards, on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, IMCTC bid farewell to the delegate of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Colonel Mohammed Sisi, at the end of his assignment at IMCTC, and presented IMCTC Decoration to him. This Decoration is awarded to all delegates of member countries at the end of their assignment at IMCTC, along with an accredited decoration certificate.

IMCTC RECEIVES MALDIVES DELEGATES



On Sunday, May 21, 2023, delegates of the Republic of the Maldives, Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Jiyad, Major Abdul Majeed Ibrahim, and Sergeant Major Mohamed Ahmed, assumed their duties at IMCTC headquarters. IMCTC Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received the new delegates and wished them success in performing their duties.

A TRAINING PROGRAM ON FINANCIAL CRIMES CONDUCTED AT IMCTC



On Monday, May 8, 2023, IMCTC held a training program for delegates of member countries under the title "Combating Financial Crimes". The program was presented by Mr. Ahmed Saleh bin Saeed, member of the Financial Academy and expert in the field of countering financial crimes, in the presence of IMCTC Secretary-General, Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi. This program is part of IMCTC's strategy, which seeks to combat the financing of terrorism and achieve IMCTC's strategic goals. Such goals include effective measures to enhance prevention, detection and restriction of terrorist financing operations through consultations aimed at developing legislative, operational and information procedures at the institutions of member countries. It also aims to conduct special training programs within member countries to enhance their capabilities in the areas of prevention, detection, reporting and exchange of information.

The program provides delegates of member countries with the necessary knowledge and skills for countering financial crime mechanisms. It is thus presented from an international perspective and explains ways to protect against and combat crime through relevant laws and regulations. It also provides a review of the background and nature of financial crimes, such as money laundering, terrorist financing and corruption, and ways to combat and prevent these crimes and the role of the military and security sector in this process. The program also aims to provide these delegates with skills such as efficient management of financial crime risks and familiarity with the requirements of financial crime prevention for an accurate and effective implementation of these requirements. The program concluded with examples and exercises on cases of financial suspicion taken from practical reality.

BRITISH COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE DELEGATION VISITS IMCTC

On Tuesday, May 23, 2023, IMCTC Secretary General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received a delegation of officers of the Advanced Command and Staff Course from the British Defense Academy, headed by Brigadier Matt Jackson, Director of Joint Services Command and Staff College, Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. At the beginning of the meeting, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi welcomed the visiting British delegation and student officers studying at the British Defense Academy, which includes a number of different world nationalities, noting the depth of the strategic relations between the United Kingdom and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The visiting delegation was later briefed on IMCTC, its vision and objectives, and updated on the latest developments related to terrorist groups and incidents around the world. Following the briefing, the Secretary General explained that IMCTC is acting on the basis of a noble principle, namely, to fight any force that might incite violence and confront all extremist trends, beliefs and ideologies. He also asserted that violent extremism in all its forms and directions does not recognize a specific belief, religion, or geographical border; it is an ideology that is formed by forces

beyond the rational and balanced mind which God has bestowed on human beings.

IMCTC Secretary-General added that the presence of the United Kingdom as a supporting country to IMCTC has a significant impact and a strategic dimension related to participatory action in all procedures intended to combat the scourge of terrorism. He further added that the eradication of this scourge requires solidarity and participation of states, international organizations and centers to activate a precise participatory methodology that would exert all possible efforts to disrupt this deviant ideology and cut off its means of communication and financing.

At the end of the visit, the visiting delegation expressed their thanks and appreciation for the hospitality they received, and praised the work methodology employed by IMCTC in combating terrorism and extremism.

It is noteworthy that this visit comes within the framework of strengthening inter-national relations between IMCTC and its member and supporting countries, which would exchange international experiences in the various fields of counter-ing terrorism.



IMCTC RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY



On Monday, May 8, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received a delegation from the National Defense University in Islamabad. The delegation received a detailed briefing on IMCTC's achievements in all areas and the strategies used by IMCTC. This visit comes within the framework of the joint work between IMCTC and its member countries to strengthen partnership in exchanging experiences. Worthy of note is that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was among the first countries to join IMCTC.

IMCTC RECEIVES A DELEGATION FROM SAUDI ARMED FORCES COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE



On Sunday, May 28, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General received a delegation of students from the Saudi Armed Forces Command and Staff College from different world nationalities. The delegation was briefed on the great efforts exerted by IMCTC in countering terrorism in all its forms and shapes. At the end of the visit, Maj. Gen. Al-Moghedi affirmed that IMCTC is based on a noble principle, namely, to combat all forces that incite violence and to confront all extremist tendencies, beliefs and ideologies.

IMCTC ACTIVATES AUDIT AWARENESS MONTH



On Wednesday, May 31, 2023, IMCTC held an event on the occasion of the Inter-national Internal Audit Awareness Month, which takes place annually in May. The Director of the Internal Audit Department gave a speech on this occasion in which he highlighted the global importance of internal audit and its impact on economic interests in case of misuse of assets and resources. He also explained that IMCTC endeavors to spread and advocate a culture of internal auditing, raise public awareness of this culture, and make maximum use of it for institutions. In this context and at IMCTC level, the Secretary-General has approved an annual plan for raising awareness of internal auditing that includes a number of varied pro-grams and means

for the purposes of enhancing transparency, protecting integrity, and combating corruption. This event aimed to introduce internal auditing as a major pillar of IMCTC and of governance, and to emphasize that it plays an over-sight role as a source of high-value information. It also indicated that the quality of governance in any organization depends on the quality and efficiency of the in-ternal auditing services carried out in this organization. This event included hold-ing educational competitions for all employees and screening a short film showing the objectives of internal auditing. It also included meetings with some department directors who discussed their experiences with IMCTC's Internal Audit Depart-ment.

HEALTH INSURANCE BENEFITS (AWARENESS-RAISING PROGRAM)



On Monday, May 15, 2023, the Islamic Military Counter-Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC), in collaboration with IMCTC medical insurance service provider, held a health awareness program, which targeted both delegates of member countries and IMCTC personnel. The program included an explanation of the benefits of insurance

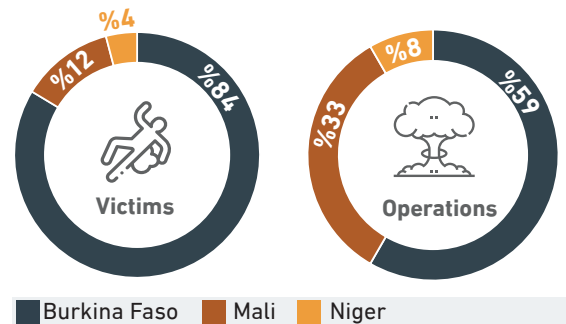
and a number of activities, including measuring body mass and establishing the importance of sports and physical activity in our daily lives. This program was organized by IMCTC Department of Human Resources and Training.

Terrorism in the G5 Sahel Countries, May 2023



During May, the Group of Five for the Sahel (G5 Sahel) countries witnessed a 12% decrease in the number of terrorist attacks and another 62% decrease in the total number of dead and wounded victims, as compared to April 2023.

Country	Terrorist Operations		Victims (deaths and injuries)	
	Apr. 2023	May 2023	Apr. 2023	May 2023
Burkina Faso	5	7	322	143
Mali	8	4	97	21
Niger	1 =	1	10	7
Chad	1	0	17	0
Mauritania	0 =	0	0	0 =
Total	15 	12	446	171



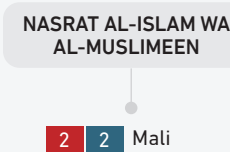
Sectors targeted by terrorist attacks

	Civilians	Military Sector	Non-governmental Organizations
Burkina Faso	120 Victims, 5 Operations	23 Victims, 2 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations
Mali	0 Victims, 0 Operations	17 Victims, 3 Operations	4 Victims, 1 Operations
Niger	0 Victims, 0 Operations	7 Victims, 1 Operations	0 Victims, 0 Operations

Impact of terrorist operations according to perpetration method

Method	Country	Victims	Operations
Explosion	Mali	4	2
	Niger	7	1
Ambush	Burkina Faso	20	1
	Mali	15	1
Armed Attack	Burkina Faso	123	6
	Mali	2	1

Terrorist operations and victims according to perpetrators



Major Political and Security Updates

Burkina Faso: The Prime Minister of Burkina Faso, Apollinaire Kyelem de Tambela, announced that elections cannot be held "in the absence of security" in a country where attacks led by extremists are frequent, killing about 40 people only in the last week of May.

Mali: A Malian government delegation held a meeting with the armed Azawad movements in the city of Kidal in the northern Azawad region of Mali to discuss enforcement of the Algiers Peace Agreement between the two sides, amid threats by the movements to withdraw from the agreement and return to square zero.

Niger: More than 18,000 people living on the Niger River islands in the Tillaberi region have started returning home, after fleeing recent acts of violence linked in part to inter-communal clashes.

Chad: Dozens of thousands of Sudanese refugees suffer from squalid living conditions in newly established camps in neighboring Chad.

Mauritania: Mauritania elects its parliament ... 25 parties are competing with more than 3,000 candidates, including 10,000 women. The African Union monitors the polls and voter turnout varies.

DIRECTOR OF TUNISIAN INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY AGENCY VISITS IMCTC



On Monday, May 29, 2023, IMCTC Assistant Military Commander, Maj. Gen. Abdullah bin Hamed Al-Qurashi received HE Brigadier General Habib Dhif, Director General of the Intelligence, Security and Defense Agency of the Republic of Tunisia and his accompanying delegation. Over the course of the visit, Dhif received a detailed briefing on IMCTC's counter-terrorism efforts in its four domains, and the role it plays in coordinating and activating counter-terrorism efforts of IMCTC member countries. Afterwards, Dhif and the accompanying delegation toured IMCTC Headquarters, and were briefed on the latest developments and updates pertaining to terrorist groups and incidents around the world, along with the monitoring and follow-up mechanisms used by IMCTC. In this regard, His Excellency praised the efforts made by IMCTC in the various counter-terrorism fields, and the strategic methodology used by IMCTC in devising the mechanisms of confronting extremist groups in the different fields. This visit was made in the context of achieving the goal of exchanging information and intelligence between IMCTC member countries in order to combat terrorism in various areas.

IMCTC RECEIVES SHEIKH AL-NAFISA



On Wednesday, May 24, 2023, HE Sheikh Saleh bin Abdulrahman Al-Nafisa, Advisor to the General Department of Religious Affairs of the Armed Forces, and his accompanying delegation visited IMCTC headquarters. The delegation was welcomed by IMCTC Secretary-General and received a detailed briefing on IMCTC's counter-terrorism efforts through cooperation agreements and partnerships concluded with international centers and organizations and with member countries to develop the counter-terrorism capabilities of IMCTC member countries in all fields. In addition, IMCTC seeks to be approved as an ideological model of moderate Islam and noble Islamic values, and as a platform for producing and disseminating knowledge about the tolerant values of Islam.

AMBASSADOR OF AZERBAIJAN VISITS IMCTC



On Monday, May 15, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General met with HE Mr. Shahin bin Shakir Abdullayev, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and his accompanying delegation. The meeting discussed issues of common interest between IMCTC and the Republic of Azerbaijan. For his part, IMCTC Secretary-General stressed the strategic importance of the State of Azerbaijan and its regional and international role, and expressed his wish for the Republic of Azerbaijan to become a member country of IMCTC so as to work side by side with member countries in the fight against terrorism.

AMBASSADOR OF ZAMBIA VISITS IMCTC



On Monday, May 22, 2023, IMCTC Secretary-General Maj. Gen. Mohammed bin Saeed Al-Moghedi received HE Mr. Duncan Mulima, the Ambassador of the Republic of Zambia to the Kingdom, and his accompanying delegation. Over the course of the meeting, HE the ambassador received a detailed briefing on IMCTC's counter-terrorism efforts in its four domains, and the role it plays in coordinating counter-terrorism efforts.