Dear colleagues,

- Terrorism has evidently become a bigger challenge for the international community over the past two decades and this calls for continuous action and a precise follow-up of measures already in place to combat terrorist acts.

- The CPA both compliments and supports all UN activities, as well as the actions of other international organisations, in an effort to combat terrorism. Our common CPA code of conduct, dictates that we all contribute to preserve peace and security and to protect human rights, alongside the rule of law.

- It is, therefore, vital that we pull our resources together in order to strengthen international cooperation to this end, between our parliaments and governments, regional and international organizations and civil society, in order to prevent terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whenever it occurs and by whoever it is committed, always in accordance with relevant international
conventions and decisions and in particular pertinent UN Resolutions.

- I am convinced that all our parliaments can make major contributions in this context. We can never overemphasize the importance of taking appropriate steps, such as denying safe haven to those who finance or commit acts of terrorism, by ensuring their apprehension, prosecution or extradition. The plan of action, presented by the Commonwealth Committee on Terrorism, some years ago, has captured the essence of the problem and through a series of legal, financial and general measures proposed to Heads of Government attempts to combat terrorism.

- The explosive situation in the Middle East and the wider area constitutes a grave threat to international peace and security and through a spiral of violence has led to the loss of thousands of lives and the destruction of whole societies. Similarly, in Cyprus, the occupation by Turkey of a substantial part of the island’s territory persists since 1974 and its people experience repeated violations of human rights, which have led them to put various aspects of their lives on hold all this time. We must convey a message of determination to all governments, so that the international community becomes equally determined to put an end to state terrorism, too.

- CPA parliaments can and must renounce and outlaw the financing, and/or provision of support to terrorists. In this direction, the Cyprus House of Representatives enacted the ratification law of the UN Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism