



Open Statement: High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism  
29<sup>th</sup> June 2018, New York

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which identified peaceful, just and inclusive societies as one of the cross cutting priorities for the international community has laid a key foundation for all stakeholders to prevent and counter violence. The establishment of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism signifies a renewed effort at robust multilateral action to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism.

The increase in violence and terrorism globally calls for urgent multi-stakeholder action to prevent and counter violent extremism. Together, we must confront state violence, weak institutions, political and economic exclusion, unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, transnational crimes, and all other identified drivers of violent extremism and terrorism.

All actors must be engaged in a sustainable manner in all interventions to halt and reverse the trend of violent extremism and terrorism. These multi-stakeholder processes must create space for continuous dialogue while also promoting sustainable early warning and response systems. The international community and national governments should engage collaboratively with youth and women groups, civil society, community and religious leaders to strengthen early warning mechanisms while promoting international, regional, sub-regional and national structures, including the International Dialogue for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) that are already well positioned for early response and dialogue.

The UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security and the recommendations of the Progress Study on Youth and Peace and Security presents a global architecture to work with young people to address issues of violent extremism and terrorism. We must make strategic effort to domesticate these global instruments and structures around youth and peacebuilding at the national and community levels.

The private sector should be incorporated into initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism. The way some private sector actors conduct business, for example, the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and arms proliferation have great impact on starting and sustaining violent conflict in several contexts. The private sector must comply with national and international laws in the conduct of business.

National governments and citizens should develop and strengthen their action plans to incorporate comprehensive counter and alternative narratives components. They should also ensure that there is an enabling policy environment that creates robust spaces for civil society engagement from the beginning.

All actors should recognize the need for and engage in long term processes to preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism instead of short term and reactive approaches that we have seen in some instances. The psycho-social support, livelihoods, legal aid and all other vital needs of victims as well as repentant violent extremists and returning foreign terrorist fighters must be met.

Long term investments and political will to ensure that prevention programs as well as rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives make the desired impact must be sought.

