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"Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth ... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security and women's empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all."

*Ban Ki-Moon*

 **1615**  
HOTLINE

[www.nctc.gov.mv](http://www.nctc.gov.mv)



## NCTC, IN COLLABORATION WITH UNDP, COMMENCES DRAFTING OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM



## DG PARTICIPATES IN A UNODC WORKSHOP IN VIENNA

## NCTC, IN COLLABORATION WITH UNDP, COMMENCES DRAFTING OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON PREVENTING/COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

15 January 2019

The final phase of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism is underway. This project is undertaken with assistance from the UNDP. The aim of all parties is to have a working draft of the NAP ready by the end of this drafting phase.

The NAP on P/CVE is the guiding document of the National P/CVE Strategy. Government of the Maldives published the National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism on November 2017 with focus on 5 strategic domains: social, religious, education, economic development, and law enforcement. The strategy adopts both a whole-of-society approach by proposing community-centric intervention, rehabilitation, and reintegration, and a whole-of-government approach by proposing preventive law enforcement and interagency collaboration among all stakeholders.

The formulation of the NAP commenced in May 2018 following the publication of the P/CVE Strategy. At the onset of this project, UNDP consultant Mr. Robert Templer conducted a nationwide vulnerability assessment to better understand the vulnerabilities facing Maldivian youth and certain factors/groups that are further exacerbating this vulnerability. During his time in the Maldives, Mr. Templer met with government counterparts, NGOs, and conducted field visits to selected



◆ Meeting with Ministry of Defence



◆ Meeting with Ministry of Higher Education



◆ Meeting with Ministry of Islamic Affairs



◆ *Meeting with Ministry of Home Affairs*



◆ *Meeting with Islamic University of Maldives*

geographical locations, and shared his findings with the UNDP and the NCTC.

The current phase is aided by UNDP consultant Mr. Jonas Horner. Mr. Horner currently works as the Regional Conflict Advisor, Middle East for the International NGO Mercy Corps. He is an expert in P/CVE with special focus on conflict resolution and preventing violent extremism. One of his most notable work include peace building programs in Sudan.

In addition to NCTC, Mr. Horner had introductory meetings with various government officials to include Minister of Defence, Minister of Islamic Affairs, Minister of Higher Education, Chief of Defence Force, officers from Maldives Police Service, senior officials from Ministry of Education, Ministry of Gender and Family, Ministry of Youth, Sports and Community Empowerment, Maldives Correctional Services, Attorney General's Office, and the Prosecutor General's Office.

He also met with senior officials from various Civil Society Organizations and NGOs such as Transparency Maldives, Regional Alliance for Fostering Youth (RAFY), Hope for

Women, Peace Foundation, Maldives Democracy Network, and the Islamic University of Maldives.

Mr. Horner will continue to meet with various stakeholders throughout the NAP drafting process.



◆ *Meeting with Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services*

Upon publication, the National Action Plan on Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism will be the guiding document for all relevant stakeholders in their work in the



◆ *Meeting with Hope for Women (NGO)*



◆ *Meeting with Peace Foundation*

P/CVE process with clearly stated mandates and respective lines of work to better organize and work as a society and as a nation to prevent extremist ideologies and counter violent actors.

## DG ATTENDS FOR REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON “GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE RESPONSE TO VIOLENT EXTREMISM LEADING TO TERRORISM IN SOUTH ASIA AND SOUTH EAST ASIA”

15-17 January 2019



Director General of NCTC Brigadier General Zakariyya Mansoor left for the regional workshop on “Gender Mainstreaming in the Criminal Justice Response to Violent Extremism Leading to Terrorism in South Asia and South East Asia” to be held from 15 to 17 January 2019 in Vienna, Austria. This workshop sponsored by UNODC aims to bring together relevant officials and experts from the region to share best practices, key lessons, and provide opportunities for collaboration. The workshop will seek to strengthen the

overall effectiveness of responses to violent extremism leading to terrorism through increased integration of gender dimensions in counter-terrorism. The workshop will also aim to improve regional cooperation in matters regarding the participation of women in terrorist activities.

During the trip, DG will also seek further opportunities to collaborate with UNODC and other participating nations on P/CVE to enhance the capacity of Maldives.

## NCTC MEETS WITH UK CT OFFICIALS TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION & COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS

6 January 2019

NCTC met with regional UK CT officials as part of the ongoing collaboration between CT and P/CVE officials of the two countries. This meeting comes just a few weeks after the Director General of NCTC met with Inspector Sean Kelly of the UK’s Counter Terrorism International Protect and prepare Coordinator for the South East and East Asia Region.

During this meeting, officials from both countries discussed the contemporary threat environment in the region and the Maldives, especially with regards to the tourism industry. UK officials additionally inquired about the capacity of Maldives’ CT apparatus to respond to threats across the country and the findings of studies conducted by the authorities to assess Terrorism and Violent Extremism in the country. The officials from the UK expressed interest to observe any future CT exercises in the Maldives to observe the response mechanism in emergency services and first responders. They stated such opportunity would be a great learning experience for the UK CT specialists and would also provide Maldives with ways to improve its response to Terrorism and Violent Extremism through a comprehensive interagency framework.

## NCTC MEETS WITH UNDP’S EVALUATION TEAM

3 January 2019

Ms. Haifa Naeem, consultant on UNDP’s Evaluation Team met with NCTC officials as part of UNDP’s review process. During this meeting, Ms. Haifa Naeem interviewed NCTC officials to assess the work done in collaboration with UNDP and also the work on the CT and P/CVE sector in the Maldives. Ms. Haifa inquired about the current work underway, including policies and mechanisms in place to address future challenges such as returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters. The meeting also included discussions on the possibility of policies to reintegrate former violent actors back into the society and the importance of addressing the root causes of Terrorism and Violent Extremism.

UN, and especially the UNDP, is one of the biggest contributors to CT and P/CVE in the Maldives and has partnered with NCTC over various capacity building programs and opportunities in Maldives and partner countries.

EXPLORING THE CORRELATION BETWEEN POVERTY AND TERRORISM/VIOLENT EXTREMISM

By Lieutenant Colonel Hussain Ibrahim, National Counter Terrorism Centre



A health worker measures a baby's arm during the launch of the joint nutrition response plan in Aweil, South Sudan. UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

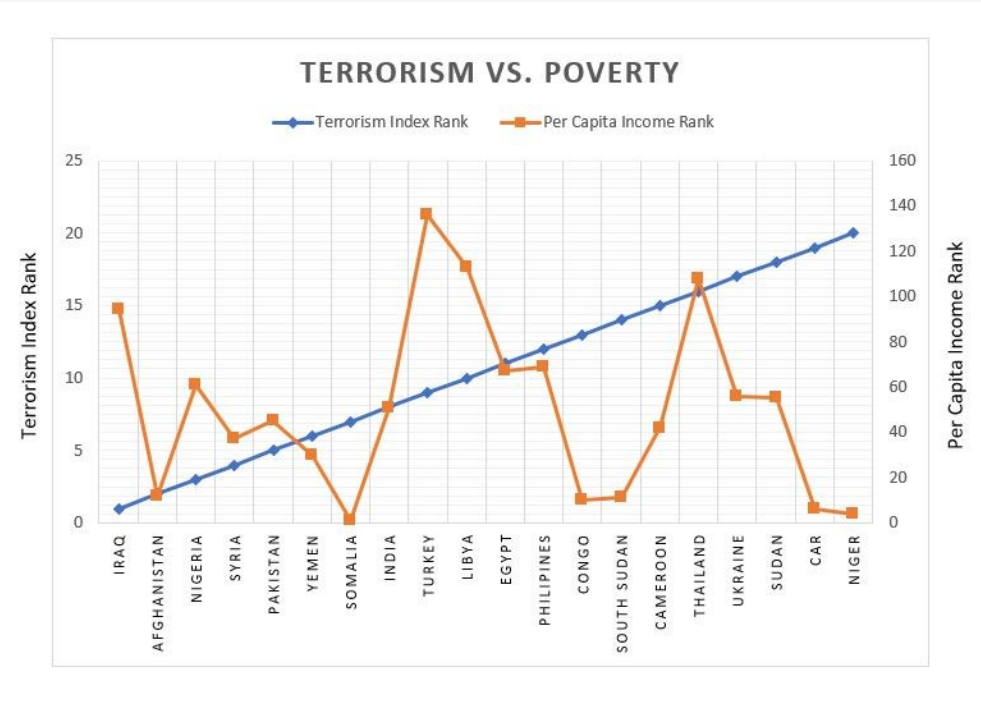
Poverty has often been associated with Radicalism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism. The United Nations Strategies to Counter Violent Extremism also gives a huge importance to alleviate poverty. The first pillar of United Nation's Global Counter Terrorism Strategy is on measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of Terrorism.

The fifth Action Plan of this Pillar states that; "To reiterate our determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals and objectives agreed at the major United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Development Goals. We reaffirm our commitment to **eradicate poverty** and promote sustained economic growth,

sustainable development and global prosperity for all."

United Nations Secretary General also reiterated the same in his opening remarks of the High-Level Conference on Counter Terrorism for the Heads of Counter Terrorism Organizations of members Countries. He stated that; "No one is born a terrorist, but we know that factors such as prolonged unresolved conflicts, lack of the rule of law, human rights abuses, **poverty**, lack of opportunities and socioeconomic marginalization can all play a part in transforming ideas and grievances into acts of terrorism." Hence, there is a huge effort to eradicate poverty in reducing Radicalism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism.

However, it is important to look at the statistical figures of economic prosperity and Terrorism to see if there is a correlation between the poverty index and level of terrorism prevalent in a nation. In order to do a



comparison, the 20 Nations with the worst records of Terrorism in the United Nations Global Terrorism Index were compared to the Poorness Index as shown by the United Nations Data on Per Capita Income.

The figures show a correlation between these two indices. 9 out of the 20 Nations on the Global Terrorism Index's worst 20 nations are also amongst the 50 poorest nations of the world.

Maldives' National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism includes "Economic Development" as one of the five pillars. It acknowledges the role played by Economic Development in the fight against Radicalism, Violent Extremism and Terrorism. The strategy also calls to create economic benefits for the community to address real and/or perceived grievances, with an emphasis on women and youth entrepreneurship.

Therefore, in the light of the aforementioned trend, it is vital for stakeholders to work with synergy in ensuring poverty does not become a driving factor of terrorism and violent extremism in the Maldives.

#	Country	Terrorism Index (out of 10)	Poorest Countries (1 being the poorest)	Per Capita Income (in US \$)
1	Iraq	10	94	4310
2	Afghanistan	9.44	12	584
3	Nigeria	9	61	2176
4	Syria	8.62	37	1203
5	Pakistan	8.4	45	1462
6	Yemen	7.88	30	920
7	Somalia	7.66	1	92
8	India	7.53	51	1706
9	Turkey	7.52	136	10863
10	Libya	7.26	113	6826
11	Egypt	7.17	67	2823
12	Philippines	7.13	69	2951
13	Congo	6.97	10	512
14	South Sudan	6.82	11	534
15	Cameroon	6.79	42	1374
16	Thailand	6.6	108	5911
17	Ukraine	6.56	56	2099
18	Sudan	6.45	55	2094
19	Central African Republic	6.39	6	394
20	Niger	6.32	4	364

1. Global Terrorism Index 2017: Measuring and Understanding the Impact of Terrorism. Institute of Economics and Peace.

Retrieved from <http://visionofhumanity.org/app/uploads/2017/11/Global-Terrorism-Index-2017.pdf>

2. Per capita income retrieved from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/snaama/dnllist.asp>

3. Per capita income retrieved from <http://data.un.org/ccxc>