

National Counter Terrorism Centre



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PRESIDENT DR. MUIZZU PRIORITIZES NATIONAL SECURITY AND RESILIENCE IN PARLIAMENT ADDRESS



In a pivotal presidential address to the Parliament on February 25, 2024, President Dr. Mohamed Muizzu delivered a resounding message centered on the preservation of peace, promotion of stability, and fortification of national security in the Maldives. President Dr. Muizzu outlined a coherent strategy aimed at bolstering the nation's defence capabilities across land, air, and sea to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial waters.

Highlighting the imperative need for modernization, President Dr. Muizzu emphasized

the importance of a comprehensive defence framework tailored to address evolving security threats. In order to protect the Maldives' sovereignty and territorial integrity, it is imperative to augment capabilities across all domains of defence," stated President Dr. Muizzu during his address.

Furthermore, President Dr. Muizzu highlighted the crucial need for resilience within the Maldivian population, particularly in navigating the constantly evolving security landscape and confronting various challenges. These challenges

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encompass not only the imminent threat of natural disasters but also potentially shifting geopolitical dynamics and emerging security concerns.

"Resilience is key to people's ability to prevent and mitigate security threats," remarked President Muizzu, emphasizing the necessity for proactive measures to safeguard the nation's security. President Dr. Muizzu's address comes at a critical juncture as the Maldives navigates a complex geopolitical landscape. By prioritizing national security, self-reliance and resilience-building, President Muizzu's Administration aims to ensure the safety and well-being of all citizens while fostering an environment conducive to sustainable development and prosperity.

As the nation collectively endeavors to strengthen its defense capabilities and fortify national security, President Muizzu's address serves as a clarion call for unity and vigilance. With a steadfast commitment to safeguarding the Maldives' sovereignty and protecting its citizens, the government under President Muizzu's leadership is poised to confront emerging challenges with determination and resolve.

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“As we safeguard our nation's sovereignty, our foremost commitment in governing the country will be to prioritize the welfare of our people and the nation.... ”

President of the Republic of Maldives

IMCTC Defence Ministers' Council

02-05 February 2024



Minister of Defence Honorable Mohamed Ghassan Maumoon and his delegation travelled to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to participate in the Islamic Military Counter Terrorism Coalition (IMCTC) "2nd meeting of the Council of Defence Ministers of Member States" held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The meeting was held on 3 February 2024 under the theme "Combating Terrorism: A Shared Responsibility," and was attended by Defense Ministers from IMCTC member states and its supporting countries. The Defense Ministers were briefed on IMCTC's counterterrorism approach, and its initiatives tailored for the needs of its member states in accordance with its governance

framework.

The meeting activated the counterterrorism initiatives in the four domains (1) Ideology, (2) Communications, (3) Counter Terrorism Financing, and (4) Military, and launched IMCTC's Initiatives Fund dedicated to the recipients of the financial contributions by Member States, Supporting Nations and International Organizations.



EU Seminar on CT and P/CVE Ecosystems and Priorities of Practices

23—25 January 2024



Maldives delegation attends the Seminar on “EU counter-terrorism and the prevention and countering of violent extremism ecosystems and priorities of practice” in Brussels, Belgium. The seminar brought together 56 officials from EU Member States, relevant EU institutions and agencies and representatives from the following Indo-Pacific countries: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Maldives, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand. Participants were all experienced officials working

in state institutions or agencies in the area of counter-terrorism. The seminar was a productive platform for exchanging experience and sharing ideas on tackling common regional and global challenges connected with terrorism in both official and social settings. Seminar stressed on the importance of EU and partner countries from the Indo-Pacific region enhancing their mutual resilience and strengthen cooperation to respond collectively to common security challenges, such as the persistent threat of terrorism.



UNODC Regional Workshop in Sri Lanka

13—15 February 2024

NCTC represented Maldives in the UNODC regional workshop on sharing experiences and lessons learned for enhancing comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration strategies through multi diplomacy collaboration which was held in Sri Lanka. The regional workshop was designed within the framework of the South Asian Network on Preventing Violent Extremism (SAN-PVE), specifically targeting the Rehabilitation and Reintegration Thematic Working Group. Delegations from South Asian countries met in Colombo for a three-day workshop to discuss and share experiences in rehabilitation and reintegration of former violent extremists. During the workshop, delegates shared their experience and detailed discussions were conducted on how the R&R programmes are being conducted in the

respective countries. Challenges faced and ways to work together to overcome these were highlighted. Furthermore, discussions were held on ways to promote experience and knowledge-sharing through SAN-PVE.



UNODC National Workshop on Enhancing CSOs and Community Leaders

27—29 February 2024

UNODC in collaboration with NCTC conducted a three-day workshop on **Promoting Engagement of Civil Society Organizations and Community Leaders in National PVE Framework and Enhancing Community's Resilience to Violent Extremism**. The workshop focused on adopting a multi-stakeholder approach to sharing knowledge and practices for the advancement of joint efforts in building community resilience. The workshop ended with a fruitful roundtable discussion on the way forward to strengthen cooperation among CSOs, Community Leaders and Government Stakeholders.



"Empowering civil society and community leaders is the cornerstone of building resilience against violent extremism. By fostering engagement and collaboration within our national PVE framework, we pave the way for a safer, more cohesive society."

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Meeting with the Deputy Head of the French Embassy to the Maldives and Sri Lanka

13 February 2024

Senior officials of NCTC met with the Deputy Head of Mission of the French Embassy in Sri Lanka accredited to Maldives. The meeting deliberated on areas for capacity building and enhancing security measures through sharing of best practices and experiences between two nations. NCTC is eager to foster collaboration with the government of France in the domain of preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism.



Director of DKI APCSS Calls on DG of NCTC

25 February 2024



Rear Admiral (Rtd) Peter Gumataotao, Director of the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies (DKI APCSS) Calls on Major General (Rtd) Wais Waheed the Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre of Maldives (NCTC) for a fruitful discussion on potential areas for cooperation and collaboration. DKI APCSS remains a significant partner to the government of Maldives in capacity building and enhancing national efforts in security. The discussion paved

ways for both organisations to gain mutual benefits in the work of combating transnational crimes.

DKI APCSS addresses regional and global security issues, inviting military and civilian representatives of the United States and Asia-Pacific nations to its comprehensive programme of executive education and workshops, both in Hawaii and throughout the Indo-Pacific region.



Meeting with team from the US Embassy ATA programme and PNNL

14 February 2024

Senior officials of NCTC met with the representatives of the US Embassy Anti-terrorism Assistance (ATA) programme and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). The meeting focused on sharing the roles of the organizations, efforts and measures taken in preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism and potential areas for cooperation. Key areas of discussion were enhancing critical infrastructure, assistance in capacity building of relevant stakeholders and research development

for evidence-based initiatives.



Meeting with SEARCCT, Malaysia

07 February 2024

Senior officials of NCTC held an online introductory meeting with officials of the South Asia Regional Center for Counter Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. During the meeting, potential areas for collaboration and cooperation

were discussed in light of both nations shared Islamic values and similarities. NCTC is keen to explore engagements with SEARCCT in the near future and produce mutual benefits to enhance regional and national peace and security.

Meeting with EU and UNODC

26 February 2024

Senior officials of NCTC met with senior representatives Ms. Arato Francesca from European Union, and Mr. Marco Head of UNODC Regional Office– South Asia. The meeting focused on further enhancing the collaboration between European Union and UNODC in strengthening inter-agency collaboration in P/CVE efforts and promoting community cohesion. NCTC and UNODC have organized several National Workshops under the framework of preventing and countering violent

extremism with the generous assistance from the EU. NCTC aims to continue these efforts delivering focused initiatives in line with national needs.



Stakeholder Roundtable on Peace and Security

19 February 2024



NCTC held a roundtable to discuss and seek suggestions from relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the actions outlined in the 'Hafthaa 14' roadmap published by the Government of Maldives. Areas of actions that were discussed include, (1) Minimum security standards, (2) Counter terrorism financing, money laundering and cyber security and (3) Building peaceful and resilient Maldivian communities by addressing societal grievances.



Our common dreams and aspirations unite us. Recognizing our shared humanity is the first step towards a world free from extremism

@SawabCenter



“Hafthaares” in Addu City

27 February - 4 March 2024



The Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Information and Arts Conducts, in collaboration with the National Counter Terrorism Centre conducted a "Hafthaares" programme in Addu City. This programme is aimed at promoting community empowerment and strengthening resilience against extremism and terrorism.

The 7-day programme involved participants from



extremism leading to terrorism, commonly referred to as the "push and pull factors", the signs and symptoms of radicalization and mitigation measures. These programmes actively encourage participants to adopt a cooperative "whole-of-society" approach.

The Youth Ministry and the NCTC have been working together to strengthen community



various sectors of society including youth, senior educators, and community leaders. The sessions were designed to provide participants with the necessary tools and knowledge to build cohesive and resilient communities.

The sessions prioritize the dissemination of crucial information aimed at enabling individuals to recognize the drivers to extremism and violent



resilience and prevent extremism and violent extremism in the Maldives. This collaboration has led to the development of a range of initiatives and programmes aimed at promoting community empowerment and building resilience. “Hafthaares” programme’s success stems from the joint effort of various ministries, agencies and CSOs in the Maldives.

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The success of these programmes and initiatives is evident in the increased awareness of the knowledge and tools necessary to identify and



understand the underlying factors that contribute to the spread of extremism. By fostering a comprehensive understanding of these factors, participants are empowered to address them collectively, bringing together various sectors of society to collaborate on effective strategies and solutions.

In addition to Youth Ministry, NCTC partnered with Ministry of Education, Ministry of Islamic Affairs, Ministry of Social and Family Development,

Ministry of Cities Local Government and Public Works, Maldives Police Service, Maldives National Defence Force, and Maldives Red Crescent to conduct a variety of sessions concerning community empowerment. NCTC also conducted awareness sessions for parents, teachers and senior students of Hithadhoo, Maradhoo, Maradhoo-Feydhoo, Feydhoo and Hulhumeedhoo.

Further, an “aailee-haveeru” (family evening) was organized with the generous assistance of the Addu City Council. Local community and relevant agencies assisted in hosting the event with several activities with interests of children.

It is the responsibility of the entire society to guide the youth on the country, the Mayor of Addu City said.

Development and Security must go parallel during planning and that it should be a whole-of-society approach in preventing the threat of terrorism and take the nation to the shores of safety, highlighted by DG NCTC.



Interagency Collaborations

01 February 2024

NCTC held an introductory meeting with the Minister of Dhivehi Language, Culture and Heritage. The meeting deliberated on the importance of patriotism in preventing and countering radicalization and violent extremism in the Maldives. NCTC is eager to foster collaboration with the Ministry and build citizens with love and respect for the nation.



28 January 2024

NCTC held an introductory meeting with Sun Siyam Group. During the meeting, potential areas for collaboration and enhancing security and safety were discussed. NCTC reiterated on the importance of strengthening and maintaining security in the tourism sector including the formulation of relevant response plans and capacity building of the staff.

01 February 2024

NCTC held an introductory meeting with the senior representatives of the Maldives Transport and Contracting Company (MTCC). The meeting was centered on improving security and safety for the systems in MTCC. NCTC is committed to enhancing the security of critical infrastructures and developing the skills of its employees in addressing security threats.

Meeting with NCPs of SAN-PVE

06 February 2024

NCTC held an introductory meeting with the recently appointed National Contact Points (NCPs) of the South Asian Network on Preventing Violent Extremism (SAN-PVE). The meeting was organized to provide the NCPs with updates on the progress of SAN-PVE and the future plans. NCTC is dedicated to achieving full operationalization of the network and extending its benefits to the South Asia region.



MNDF Holds the Commanders' Defence Intelligence Conference

28-29 January 2024

The conference is strategically designed to delve into both present and future security challenges within the operational landscape. Its



primary objective is to collectively unravel the complexities of contemporary security challenges by fostering collaboration, embracing an interdisciplinary perspective, and adopting a holistic approach. This forum serves as a beacon, guiding participants towards innovative solutions and strategic insights, all in the pursuit of future Defence and National Security, safeguarding against evolving threats.

The two-day conference focused day 1 for the

senior leadership, providing them a focused platform for in-depth discussions and strategic deliberations.

Day 2 ensured that the content and discussions



were aligned with the distinct needs and perspectives of Commanders, Warrant Officers and Senior Enlisted leaders, optimizing the overall conference experience for all participants.

Relevant briefings by agencies we delivered during the conference. A comprehensive overview of national terrorism prevention and response plans was delivered by the National Counter Terrorism Centre.



Capacity Building

4-6 February 2024

NCTC officials participated in the Sea-vision Executive Training organized and held by the Maldives National Defence Force. Sea-vision system is part of the Maritime Safety and Security Information System. The training was an excellent addition to the capabilities of NCTC staff.



19-21 February 2024

NCTC officials participated in the Mutual Evaluation Pre Workshop organized by the Asia-Pacific Group on Money Laundering in partnership with the Maldives Monetary Authority. The workshop delivered crucial information in preparation for the upcoming mutual evaluation scheduled for later this year.



25-29 February 2024

NCTC Officials participated in the Counter Radicalization Co-design workshop conducted by the Ministry of Homeland Security and Technology. The workshop provided an opportunity to identify possible inter-agency collaborations in the fight against radicalization and extremism in the Maldives. Inter-agency coordination and cooperation are critical components in combating violent extremism and building a peaceful and resilient society.



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National Counter Terrorism Centre

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