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“And hold fast, all of you together, to the Rope of God, and be not divided among yourselves, and remember God’s favour on you, for you were enemies and He joined your hearts together, so that by His grace, you became brethren and you were on a brink of a Pit of Fire, and He saved you from it. Thus God makes clear His signs to you, that you may be guided.” (Quran 3:103)

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REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT ON PREVENTION OF CHILD RECRUITMENT AND EXPLOITATION BY TERRORIST AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS

YOUTH 2030

WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



UNITED NATIONS YOUTH STRATEGY

REGIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING EVENT ON PREVENTION OF CHILD RECRUITMENT AND EXPLOITATION BY TERRORIST AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS

25-27 September 2018

NCTC in collaboration with United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime has sent a multi sectoral group of participants to take part in the “Regional Capacity Building Event on Prevention of Child recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups” which was held in Bangkok, Thailand from 25th to 27th of September.

The participants hail from our partner agencies which are represented in the NCTC’s Counter Radicalisation Committee. The participants were:

Ms. Aminath Shareef, Deputy Director General, Ministry of Gender and Family

Uza. Anaan Ahmed Rasheed, Senior State Attorney, Attorney General’s Office

Ms. Aishath Safoora, Senior Policy Executive, Ministry of Education

Ms. Aishath Nishana, Social Service Officer, Juvenile Justice Unit (Ministry of Home Affairs)

Mr. Hassan Haneef, Superintend of Police, Maldives Police Service

Mr. Sofwan Shakir, CT Analyst, NCTC

Thousands of children have been abducted, recruited, exploited, or otherwise associated with terrorist groups and groups engaged in violent extremism, conducive to terrorism. (Reference: Article Review of Children at War: Foreign Child



Recruits of the Islamic State, NCTC Newsletter 11). Recent research highlights that those children are subject to violence at multiple levels: from menial labour to sexual exploitation to being exploited as child soldiers in open hostilities, and increasingly as suicide attackers.

In the UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy in July 2016, the General Assembly reiterated “that, given their potential status as victims of terrorism as well as of other violations of international law, every child alleged as, accused of, or recognized as having infringed the law, particularly those who are deprived of their liberty, as well as child victims and witnesses of crimes, should be treated in a manner consistent with his or her rights, dignity and needs, in accordance with applicable international law, in particular, obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child” (A/RES/70/291, OP 18).

Child recruitment for terrorism is prohibited by international humanitarian law and listed as one of

the six grave violations against children by the United Nations Security Council. It is a grave concern for all member nations and especially smaller nations as:

- New innovative methods of recruitment pose new obstacles to effective prevention measures.
- children are increasingly involved in the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon.
- Children are currently detained and facing prosecution on charges under counter-terrorism legislation. The smaller nations especially lack the Rehabilitation and Reintegration mechanisms.
- Children incur enhanced risks of stigmatization and secondary victimization in the criminal justice system.

Children, being the future of all the nations, are in the medium and long term the architects and builders of peaceful and tolerant societies. Hence, effective prevention measures and advancement of justice systems to

include children's rights should be utilized to tackle the very complex and multifaceted phenomenon of child recruitment. A multi-faceted response through a "whole of Government" and a "Whole of Society" approach is needed to protect, respect and fulfil children's rights, to prevent re-victimization and to take actions to ensure that other systems (i.e. child protection, health, education) provide suitable responses.

Hence this multi-sectoral "Regional Capacity Building Event on Prevention of Child Recruitment and Exploitation by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups" of 3 days held in Bangkok was the first of its kind for Asian Countries and was aimed at enhancing the capacity of practitioners from the Asian

countries, and to familiarize the participants on the UNODC training manual on "Prevention of child recruitment by terrorist and violent extremist groups". The event also increased the awareness and understanding of participants on prevention of, and responses to violence against children recruited and exploited by terrorist and violent extremist groups.

The event also allowed practitioners

from the five regional countries to engage in a peer exchange of challenges and practices related to the phenomenon of children recruitment and exploitation by violent extremist and terrorist groups. The event also offered a forum to jointly discuss how cooperation within (and across) the Asia region can be strengthened and a forum to request for any technical assistance and training needs specific to their own nation.



DG MEETS REPRESENTATIVES FROM UNDP MALDIVES

27 September 2018



Director General of NCTC Brig. Gen. Zakariyya Mansoor met the Assistant Resident Representative of UNDP Maldives, Ms. Aishath Rizna and the Program Analyst Ms.

Samha Naseer to discuss further avenues of collaboration between NCTC and UNDP Maldives in our efforts to curb Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the Maldives.

DG praised the efforts of UNDP Maldives in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in the Maldives and expressed his gratitude for the efforts and assistance provided for our efforts to create a National Action Plan to Prevent Violent Extremism.

He also Discussed logistical and administrative mechanisms for an upcoming Seminar to be held in the Maldives for the Law Enforcement Agencies.

A REVIEW OF THE UN YOUTH STRATEGY “YOUTH 2030: WORKING WITH AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE”

1. Context

The world is experiencing the largest generation of youth in the age bracket of 10-24 years in history of 1.8 billion, and nearly 90 per cent of them live in developing countries. It is these youth that drive social progress and inspire political change, and are worth investing in, to bring development to those nations.

Young people, especially girls are also facing incredible challenges and even life-threatening risks when accessing their rights, including to quality education, healthcare or decent work. They also arise in situations of conflict, where young people flee for their life. The way in which young people mature into adulthood, are critical for the progress of humankind and the health of the planet.

Hence, it is by engaging and working with and supporting the youth in standing up for their rights and playing an active role in the development of their nations, that the international community will be able to achieve peace, security, justice, climate resilience and sustainable development for all.

2. Role of UN

United Nations have established the centrality of youth in Sustainable Development Goals and other internationally agreed frameworks as Security Council Resolutions 2250

(2015) and 2419 (2018).

These acknowledges that young people play an important and positive role in the realization of sustainable development, in the prevention of crises and in the advancement of peace.

The Youth Strategy acts as an umbrella framework to guide the

potential; and that recognizes young people’s agency, resilience and their positive contributions as agents of change.”

4. Objective of the UN Youth Strategy

“The Strategy aims to facilitate increased impact and expanded global, regional and country-level action to

address the needs, build the agency and advance the rights of young people in all their diversity around the world, and to ensure their engagement and participation in the implementation, review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development as well as

other relevant global agendas and frameworks.”

5. Strengthening the foundations for a UN that delivers with and for young people

Through its Youth Strategy, the UN seeks to become a Leadership Example, Knowledge and Innovation Pioneer, an Investment and Solution Catalyst, and an Accountability Leader. To achieve this, UN will:

- **Support youth leadership** across the organization and build staff awareness and capacity on youth-related issues.
- **Strengthen knowledge**



entire UN process through the three pillars of peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development

UN, recognizing the diversity of youth and advocates for methods and approaches reflective of this diversity so all young people can reach their full engagement, empowerment and development. The strategy uses a human-rights based, gender-transformative, sensitive and responsive approach.

3. Vision

“A world in which the human rights of every young person are realized; that ensures every young person is empowered to achieve their full

production and management systems; become a credible source of expertise on youth development and engagement; and facilitate evidence based global awareness on the realities and needs of the world's young people.

- **Accelerate resource mobilization** efforts and facilitate partnership solutions to advance the implementation of the UN Youth Strategy and strengthen the funding base and mechanisms for youth-focused programming and youth-led actions at all levels.
- **Ensure successful addressing of youth issues** through their programming; effectively and meaningfully engage young people in their work; and track budget allocations and expenditures.

6. Priority Areas of the UN Youth Strategy

The UN is committed to strengthening its capacity to meet the new demands. To achieve this UN must prioritize, invest in, engage and empower young people. To that effect the five key priority areas are:

Engagement, Participation and Advocacy: Amplify youth voices for the promotion of a peaceful, just and sustainable world.

Informed and Healthy Foundations: Support young people's greater access to quality education and health services

Economic Empowerment through



photo: www.environment.gov.mv

Decent Work: Support young people's greater access to decent work and productive employment

Youth and Human Rights: Protect and promote the rights of young people and support their civic and political engagement

Peace and Resilience Building: Support young people as catalysts for Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action

7. Coordination, Governance and Operationalization

The ownership of the UN Youth Strategy is equally shared by all members of the UN system at the global, regional and national levels. The Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth will be the public face of the UN Youth Strategy and will lead global advocacy efforts and its High-Level Steering Committee in support of its successful implementation.

The High-Level Steering Committee is composed of:

- a) The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth (Chair)
- b) The Interagency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) co-chairs
- c) a select number of biennially rotating UN Entities (one or two per priority area whose work is central to the Strategy (at ASG level)
- d) 2 biennially rotating representatives of a global youth-led platform/organization.

While the strategy will span 12 years until 2030, an initial action plan that covers the first four years, is developed and presented to an expanded Senior Management Group meeting (include relevant specialized agencies) for information. The initial action plan will then be reviewed, adjusted and renewed for the subsequent quadrennial phases.