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“Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime”

Target of UN SDG Goal 16

1615
HOTLINE

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Aligning the Maldivian CT and CVE efforts to the UN SG's Plan of Action and UN SDGs



THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL'S PLAN OF ACTION ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



On 15th of January 2016, the Secretary General presented a Plan of Action to Counter Violent Extremism to the General Assembly of the United Nations. Subsequently, on the 12th of February, the General Assembly adopted a resolution that welcomed the SG's Plan of Action. In the Plan, the former Secretary-General called for a comprehensive approach encompassing not only essential security-based counter-terrorism measures but also systematic preventive steps to address the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize and join violent extremist groups.

The Plan is an appeal for concerted action by the international community. It addresses the Drivers of Violent Extremism, asks the Member States to set the policy frame work by producing the National CVE Strategy and NAPs and provides more than 70 recommendations to Member States and the United Nations System to prevent the further spread of violent extremism based on 7 priority areas. The Secretary-General also puts forward an “All-of-UN” approach both at Headquarters and in the field to support national, regional and global efforts to prevent violent extremism and assist Member States in developing National Plans of Action. Strengthening National Institutions to prevent Violence and Terrorism is also a target of SDG goal 16.

NATIONAL ACTIONS IN SUPPORT OF SG'S PLAN OF ACTION

On the 2nd of November 2017, Maldives launched the National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism. This landmark document addresses the issue of Violent Extremism in a Whole of Government and a Whole of Society Approach. It stresses the importance of all 5 domains and stresses that success can only be achieved through implementation of preventive programs all across the Social, Religious, Education, Economic Development and Law Enforcement Domain..



On the 7th of May 2018, with the assistance and expert support of UNDP, NCTC started the process of formulating the National Action Plan with the participation of the partner Agencies of the Government and the Social Sector. A comprehensive NAP is Scheduled to be completed by August of this year.

ALIGNING NATIONAL EFFORT TO ENHANCE THE PARTICIPATION OF YOUTH AND WOMEN

The preventive effort of countering Violent Extremism in the Maldives gives great importance to two key priority areas of the 7 Priority Areas mentioned in the SG's Plan of Action, namely the Empowerment of Youth and Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women.

In this endeavor, NCTC has signed MOUs with two prominent Women NGOs and also with the two Universities of Maldives. The Collaborative effort with the NGOs and the Universities have started producing results on the ground in the form of mentorship programs, youth peace ambassadors, discussions on taboo and least discussed contentious religious issues and women empowerment programs.



DIRECTOR GENERAL CALLS ON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY

03 June 2018, Sunday



Director General of National Counter Terrorism Centre, Brigadier General Zakariyyaa Mansoor called on the Minister of Environment and Energy Hon. Thoriq Ibrahim to discuss the emerging trends of Environmental and Ecological Terrorism and their impact to the Maldivian Society, Economy and the Maldivian people.

This is the first such call by the DG on the Environment Minister, and they further discussed ways in which both the organizations could increase awareness of the impact of a possible incident of Environmental Terrorism amongst the stakeholders

UPCOMING UNODC EVENTS

UNODC 's Terrorism Prevention Branch in collaboration with NCTC is conducting a workshop for the maritime law enforcement entities titled "National Legislative Workshop on the implementation of Transport Related Maritime Counter Terrorism International Legal Instruments" from 3rd to 5th of July 2018 in Hotel Jen, Male

UNODC is mandated to provide assistance to requesting Member Nations in legal and criminal justice aspects of countering terrorism.

UNODC, in upholding UNSC resolution 1540, is concerned with the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction through the maritime transport routes and is keen to enhance capacity of member nations in the Asia Pacific Region to counter the threat of use of their Sea Lines of Communication for the proliferation of WMDs

A DISCUSSION WITH THE DEAN OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES OF ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF MALDIVES ON CVE

11 June 2018, Monday

Q. What, in your opinion is needed to preserve the Religious Unity in the Maldives?



A. The effort to preserve has to be three pronged. To lessen the divide amongst the general population, first and foremost, the Ulema need to align their religious views. The religious scholars need to respect each other and on contentious issues, they need to tell the public that the scholars do have

differences of opinion. This can be done by forming a "Jamiyyathul Ulama" under the patronage of the Islamic Ministry, with representation from all the religious scholars. The NGO could have a "Council of Ulama" comprising of senior scholars with a mandate to religious unity. This process would have the desired effect of giving a voice to the "Mainstream Religious Scholars" and would bring them to the public's eye.

The second thing to do is to have periodic review of the religious curriculum, from grade 1 to Masters Degree and remove extremist content. The religious teachers need to be given

additional training on pedagogy and translation and a conference of Islam teachers need to be held at least once every two years to discuss challenges and formulate solutions.

Thirdly the use of modern communication means of broadcast and mass media need to be utilized by mainstream religious scholars more extensively than today. This is to give the public the assurance that there is an alternative narrative to the extremist narrative that is continuously being pushed down their throats. If we do this, InshaAllah, we can preserve religious unity of Maldives and we will be a moderate Muslim Nation.

THE ROLE OF MINISTRY OF ISLAMIC AFFAIRS IN STRENGTHENING THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

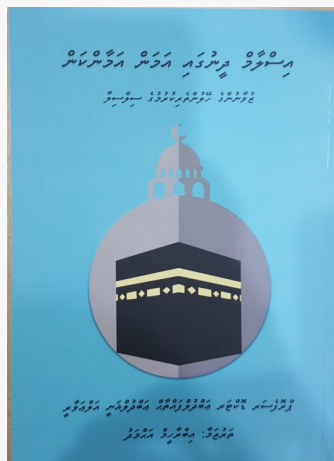
Ministry of Islamic affairs have formulated the first draft of the “Regulation to safeguard the Religious Unity of Maldives” and the Ministry’s Policy on religious issues. Both documents are drafted and circulated amongst the relevant government organisations for review and comments. On completion of the review process, the regulations will come into force. The regulation draws its legislative power from “Religious Unity Act 6/94”. The regulations gives the procedures and requirements for religious scholars to give religious sermons. It also sets boundaries on what can and cannot be given in the sermons. The regulation also sets conditions for Foreign Scholars to give Religious Sermons in the Maldives and sets punishments for spreading hatred, creating religious disunity and promoting another religion in the Maldives. The standards and punishments apply to verbal communications as well as broadcast and social media.

ROUTINE MATTERS

- ♦ NCTC conducts the first review of the NAP formulation with UNDP with the recommendations from UN Subject Matter Expert Mr. Simon Finley. Mr. Finley had given a set of five recommendations to initiate the process of NAP formulation which will be followed diligently during the next few weeks
- ♦ NCTC conducts the Joint Terrorism Threat Assessment and Situation review with the CT department of Maldives Police Service as a prelude to the Combined Threat Assessment for the second half of this year with all the Intelligence Organizations

ISLAMIC MINISTRY ENHANCES YOUTH AWARENESS THROUGH THE PUBLICATION OF BOOKS

Ministry of Islamic Affairs have published two important books under the “Youth Awareness Program”. The book titled “Peace and Security in Islam” gives the definition of Peace in Islam and gives proof from scripture and Prophet’s (SAW) life that highlights the importance Islam places on promoting peace. It also highlights the manner in which Islam asks us to conduct our dealings with non-Muslims and on respect for other religions. It also gives guidance on how to conduct



judicial proceedings and not to bring biases in dealing with people on judicial matters. It also highlights how we should conduct ourselves in protecting non-Muslim guests under our care and protection.

The second book Titled “Knowing Religion protects you from Fitna” sets out a series of questions and answers on some of the contentious issues.



ISLAMIC MINISTRY ADDRESSES THE ISSUE OF “THAKFIR”

“Thakfir” or declaring a Muslim to be a Non-Believer is one of the main narratives being used

by Violent Extremists in using violence and legitimizing extra judicial killings in the mindsets of their cadre. This book titled “Declaring a Muslim to be a Non-Believer and its boundaries” sets out the



procedures and norms that must be followed before declaring a Muslim to be “Thakfir”. This book gives good advice to youngsters to discourage them from participating in foreign conflicts and sets out some common questions on the topic and gives detailed answers with reference to scripture and Prophet’s (SAW) life

ENHANCING NATIONAL UNITY AND SOCIETAL COHESION BY UNITING THE YOUTH

06 June 2018, Wednesday



Most Psychologists concur that it is easier to bring about a behavioral change at a younger age than with adults. National Unity can only be achieved by cultivating a sense of unity at a tender age. Realizing the fact, Ministry of Education has put out policies to encourage unity and cohesion amongst school goers by encouraging

nationalism and patriotism and cultivating a sense of belonging by taking pride in preserving our environment. The main three pillars of our National Unity is the oneness of our culture, our language and our religion. Reducing divisions and rifts with society and creating societal cohesion, national solidarity and identity is also one of the main activities mentioned in the Social Domain of the “National Strategy on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism”

To celebrate the “World Oceans Day” on the 6th of June 2018, the Ministry of Education recommended all the schools to host an “Iftar” or a “Tharaaveeh” to enhance unity and cohesion amongst the students. The Minister of Education Hon. Aishath Shiham celebrated the “World Oceans Day” by participating in the Iftar hosted by Jamaaludheen School.

RAFY COLLABORATES WITH EXPERTS IN THE FIELD OF CVE IN SINGAPORE

09 June 2018, Thursday



A team from RAFY comprising of the founding president of RAFY Dr. Rafiyya and Chairperson of Research and Publications Committee of RAFY, Ms. Sama Ibrahim Didi and others met the CVE experts of Singapore while attending the Royal Institution’s 12th Global Congress and Conferment Ceremony on 9 June 2018 at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore.

Sama's work was highly recognized by the congress as research paper titled "The inclusion of youth in peace building process of Maldives" is selected to be featured for Poster Presentation during the event.



During the visit RAFY team met the esteemed Professor, Rohan Gunaratna and Religious Rehabilitation Group to discuss CVE efforts and intervention programs in the Maldivian Context.

Discussions were held on promoting Peace and Harmony and how youth can play a major role in peace keeping, tolerance and building resilience among our society

Rohan Gunaratna is Professor of Security Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Nanyang Technology University, and Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Singapore.

RRG is an organization of voluntary Islamic Scholars in Singapore who assist in the religious rehabilitation and counselling of radicalised individuals.