



# **Ramadi to Marawi**

Proceedings of the Conference on Peace  
and the Prevention of Violent Extremism  
in Southeast Asia







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PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY





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# MESSAGE

**His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte**

*President of the Republic of the Philippines*



My warmest greetings to the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy as it publishes its report on the **International Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**.

Last year, extremist groups entered Marawi in an attempt to establish a foothold in what was once a peaceful, tolerant, and thriving city. While this may be one of the darkest moments in our nation's history, it nonetheless underscored the extraordinary bravery of our troops and strengthened our resolve to defend our democratic institutions and way of life.

The publication of this report comes at a time when we are rebuilding Marawi and restoring our people's confidence in the government's capability to maintain stability and peace in Mindanao. I trust that your work will contribute to our cause and will guide us in preventing the resurgence of elements that intend to sow hatred and discord among us.

Together, let us harness the important role of the youth, women, the academe, and other stakeholders, not just in opposing the misappropriation of Islamic doctrines in support of violent extremism, but also in ensuring that our people would be insulated from the influence of misguided radical ideologies through a culture of peace, tolerance, moderation, and respect for diversity.

I wish you all the best.

MANILA

16 May 2018

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## MESSAGE

**His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos**

*Former President of the  
Republic of the Philippines*

I congratulate the organizers of the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia** for coming up with a publication containing the discussions and outputs of the very productive two-day conference held last September 22-23, 2017.

The proceedings of the conference contribute immensely to our understanding of violent extremism today. More importantly, it points us to the right direction in terms of preventing our region, indeed our world, from being engulfed by the menace of terrorism.

As ASEAN progresses—economically and socially—we need to confront this evil the ASEAN way. To paraphrase former Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay, as he confronted the insurgencies during his time: “we must use all out force with the right hand and use all out friendship with the left hand.” In other words, we need a balance between the hard and soft approaches in dealing with violent extremism.

Just as we strengthen regional cooperation on counter-terrorism initiatives, we should likewise increase our common efforts in winning the war for the “hearts and minds” of our people. United, we must address the factors that drives radicalization and extremism. We must fight terrorism by fighting poverty. Ensuring development—equitable development—among our peoples will allow us to undermine a critical element of the radicalization process of many of our people, especially the youth.

Again, my commendations to the conference organizers for this publication that captured the valuable contributions of speakers from all over ASEAN to our understanding of violent extremism.

*Mabuhay* — Best wishes!!!

Metro Manila  
April 2018

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# MESSAGE

## Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III

*Senate of the Philippines*



I congratulate the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy and its partners for coming up with this publication which highlights the ideas and proposals on preventing violent extremism in our communities.

Sadly, the Philippines is one of those countries that has had its fair share of terror attacks, the most recent of which is the siege of Marawi City. Even as our armed forces have successfully repelled local terror groups aligned with the Islamic State, and even as the people of Marawi begins the difficult task of rebuilding their homes, we need to work doubly hard to counter the relentless evil intentions of terrorist networks who spread messages of hate, intolerance and violence.

I am glad that the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia** held in September 22-23, 2017 in Manila had produced a number of ideas that we in the legislature can use as inputs as we come up with policies designed to prevent extremism from taking root in our communities.

Let us continue to work together to build an ASEAN society that is respectful of diversity, the rule of law, and values peace and cooperation.





## MESSAGE

### Representative Pantaleon D. Alvarez

*Speaker of the House of Representatives*

My warmest greetings to officers, members, and various stakeholders of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy as you launch your book chronicling the successful **Conference on Peace and Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia** held on September 22-23, 2017.

President Rodrigo Roa Duterte was elected with one of his main goals being to finally bring lasting peace to the country, particularly in his homeland—strife-torn Mindanao. Approaching his mid-term in office, we are seeing concrete steps towards realizing that elusive goal with the continuing peace overtures towards the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF).

We in the House of Representatives of the 17th Congress heed to President Duterte's call to lasting peace. We work with the Duterte administration in passing laws that will truly unite the Filipino people as one nation. To this end, we will be taking up the proposed Bangsamoro Basic Law, which President Duterte consistently and earnestly urged for us to pass sans the constitutional obstacles in the 17th Congress.

As a peace-loving people, we commend the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy for holding a peace-conference that promotes reconciliation in Mindanao. I am confident that you will continue to be our partner in achieving lasting peace not only in the Philippines' southernmost parts but also throughout the archipelago.

I urge each and every one of you to be instruments of change and aid our President to realize the same for the collective welfare of the Filipino people. Like him, let us all roll up our sleeves and get to work. *Tinuod nga kausaban.*

Mabuhay po kayo!

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# MESSAGE

## Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana

*Secretary of National Defense*



On behalf of your One Defense Team, I would like to give my highest praises to the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy for your efforts on Peace and Prevention of Violent Extremism. I would also like to commend you on this book and its productive output of consolidating all the ideas and key takeaways from your successful conference last September.

Our best prevention for violent extremism is awareness. It is evident that we need to strengthen our peace-building efforts as they are now more relevant than ever. Your involvement in spreading solution-oriented ideas and educating various sectors about the realities of social action is a great contribution to our fight against radicalization.

The Marawi crisis became an eye-opener for all of us. We emerged victorious, but we must remain steadfast and vigilant against all these kinds of crises. On our side as defenders, we still need the kind of support that you have been providing in order for us to achieve this mission of eradicating violent extremism.

Once again, I would like to congratulate your organization on such a fruitful endeavor. May you continue to vigorously pursue your noble objectives.

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## MESSAGE

**Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.**

*National Security Adviser*

The Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) has been a very consistent and passionate advocate for peace in Mindanao. I have had the privilege of engaging the PCID not only as the National Security Adviser but also as a former Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process. I am thankful for the opportunity to participate at the recently-held **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**.

Even as we celebrate the success of the Conference, Marawi City is still undergoing reconstruction. Combating the enemy using arms is difficult but the cost of blood that was paid to retake Marawi will be for naught if the nation does not lend its hand in helping the populace regain their former prestige as an Islamic city.

Our intent of winning the hearts and minds of the people cannot be accomplished if not for the efforts of organizations such as the PCID. The recently-held Conference, the results of which are published in this book, will be useful for peace advocates because the points raised can be used to craft a multi-stakeholder approach in winning the peace not only in Mindanao but also in volatile areas of Southeast Asia.

As the National Security Adviser, it is my responsibility to ensure that the stability and unity of the Filipino nation are not threatened by security threats. This responsibility is challenging in itself, and it is made more complicated by the opinions of the academe, the business community, the politicians, the religious sector, and the nation's women and youth on how to respond to those threats. Thus I am grateful for the PCID for







consolidating the positions of those sectors and distilling them into this book.

I pray and hope that this book will not gather dust but that it would earn the markings of a well-worn publication—as this would reflect on its usefulness in the halls of power and on the ground. I wish the PCID more success in its endeavors and I expect to see them present among the actors that would bring about peace in Mindanao. Mabuhay!





## MESSAGE

**Ambassador Luis Antonio  
Calvo Castaño**

*Ambassador of Spain*

I want to express my gratitude to the organizers of this conference for having taken the initiative in this vital issue that affects all our countries. There is no need to recall the tragic effect of violent political actions all around the world and the political, social and economic instability it provokes. The strong political message being sent by the Conference on Peace and Prevention of Violent Extremism to ASEAN societies about the need for common effective action is not only a message, but a step forward in the implementation of policies and laws, to build a better society centered in the welfare of its citizens in compliance with the peaceful wishes of the majorities.

As clearly established in the Philippine Development Plan, Peace and Stability is the basis of any development in all sectors; It's the most important value of a society while violent extremism seeks as its main objective to undermine peace. In present society, where access to global information and resources is so easy for the good and for the bad, preventing violent actions from extremists constitute one of the more complex and sophisticated challenges.

The fact that our governments should confront this challenge in the respect of rule of law, human rights and democratic principles, could be considered an obstacle to succeed in this fight against violence. Let me express the opposite; it is precisely the rule of law and the respect to citizens' rights that drive a safer and stronger society, able to defend itself from those that don't believe in dialogue and democracy.

We all also share a long history of successes, failures and uncertainties in preventing and responding to extremist violence. The right management

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of this knowledge by the political leaderships is, with no doubt, crucial. As you well know, the European Union Strategy for Combating Radicalization and Recruitment to Terrorism, encourage member states to develop sound strategies and plans, permanently reviewed, to integrate knowledge and strengths for an effective prevention. Let me just remark the first principle of this strategy: Promote security, justice, and equal opportunities for all.

Spain developed its national strategy in 2010 and approved the National Strategic Plan to Fight Violent Radicalization in 2015, applying Spanish, European and international lessons learnt. This Plan involves 12 ministries, engages the government with civil society and especially vulnerable groups at all levels, underlining the importance of local governance as well as the use of communication technologies. Let me remark, that the participation of civil society and vulnerable groups in the prevention activities at the local level has brought important successes in multicultural communities of our country.

Last but not least, I want to emphasize the importance in our peace and security strategies of the 10-year National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security. Last July, Spanish government approved the second Plan for the period 2017 – 2023 including as one of its four thematic areas the fight against violent extremism and terrorism. Direct participation and contribution of women and girls, who suffered in a very special manner all kinds of violence, usually is considered as a secondary matter despite being at the core of the solution. The understanding of the roots of violence in our countries is impossible if we don't seriously consider half of the society constituted by women with specific conflicts and answers frequently not taken into consideration.

Once again, I want to congratulate all the institutions that have participated in this extremely important effort, led so efficiently by the OPAPP, the Philippines Center for Islam and Democracy, the ASEAN Society of the Philippines, and the Rajaratnam School of International Studies. We have high expectations on the impact of this Conference and further steps in this permanent endeavor. You know that you can count on us as partners in this challenging and crucial path.





## FROM THE ORGANIZERS

### Secretary Jesus Dureza

*Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process*

The **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia** gathered more than four hundred political leaders, government officials, security analysts, peace advocates, civil society, academe, religious leaders, business leaders, media, women and youth, including representatives of ASEAN member states and partners from Mindanao's conflict-affected communities to confront one of the most serious threats to peace, security, and stability in the world today — violent extremism. While states have their own national community-based programs and initiatives to combat this menace, there was, and continues to be, a recognition that it cannot be just dealt with by each country on its own.

The Conference provided the platform for productive discourse and constructive engagement that enabled the exchange of best practices and the sharing of lessons learned from local programs that have achieved success in their respective communities. It also resulted in the networking of organizations, allowing them to discuss and examine initiatives, with the aim of developing effective and appropriate policies and strategies, and engaging all stakeholders as essential partners in strengthening their communities' resiliency.

The resulting recommendations from the different sectors on an action agenda in responding to the threats and challenges posed by the rise of radicalization and violent extremism in Southeast Asia, contained in this book, are critical contributions to governments preparing their national action plans for the prevention of violent extremism.





In publishing and launching this book that highlights the Conference proceedings and its outputs, it is hoped that the knowledge shared at the Conference and the consensus and commitment generated among the various stakeholders, will be taken forward towards more effective policy responses and initiatives in support of genuine and lasting peace, conflict transformation, and the prevention of the rise of violent extremism in our country, and in the region.





## FROM THE ORGANIZERS

**Amina Rasul-Bernardo**

*Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy*

On behalf of the organizers, the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, the ASEAN Society-Philippines, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, it is my honor to present this publication which contains the proceedings of the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**.

The conference—attended by some 400 experts, leaders and thinkers from all over Southeast Asia—produced a lot of ideas on how to prevent violent extremism. Some of the ideas were novel, some were reconfigurations of existing ones, but all were very important to advance our understanding of this phenomenon that continues to threaten humanity. This report is a humble attempt to synthesize and present those ideas.

When we set out to organize the conference, we wanted to focus on peace-building as the foundation of strategies designed to address violent extremism. History has shown us that gargantuan armies, all-out wars and the most sophisticated military weapons cannot resolve conflicts and stamp out terrorism. We need to focus our resources on addressing the drivers of conflict—poverty, marginalization, oppression, and injustice. This is the message of this book, only when we adopt a “whole-of-society” approach can we defeat terrorism. For this reason, the book contains individual chapters on how key sectors of society—academe, business, religious, politics, women, and youth—can contribute to this global effort.

We hope that this publication can contribute to furthering regional cooperation especially among ASEAN civil society organizations, who individually, have done so much in harnessing the resiliency of their communities against violent extremists.

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## FROM THE ORGANIZERS

### Ambassador Delia Domingo-Albert

*ASEAN Society - Philippines*



The success of our united effort in preventing violent extremism will depend on our ability to share knowledge and experiences. It is the only way by which we can know what works and what does not work. This publication on the outputs of the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**, which we, the ASEAN Society of the Philippines, has had the honor of co-organizing, is a step in that direction.

We hope that with the international conference and this report, ASEAN civil society will increase its ability to communicate and share experiences. This is very important given the diversity of cultures, economies, and politics in the region.

Through our participation in this conference and the publication of this book, we hope to be able to contribute to the initiative of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Council in promoting a “Culture of Prevention Agenda.” As stated in the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, this is an important cross-cutting issue affecting all pillars of the ASEAN Community which aims to realize the potential contribution of relevant sectorial frameworks under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in preventing violent extremism and other forms of violence at their root causes in a more coordinated and systematic approach and in accordance with the ASEAN charter and principles.





## FROM THE ORGANIZERS

### Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

*S. Rajaratnam School for  
International Studies (RSIS)*

Whether it is preventing or countering violent extremism, the challenge is mobilising the community to work together. This means people need to appreciate the problem and understand its wider implications. Intrinsically, all our respective communities have ways to deal with dangers and threats to their well-being. There is a lot of good which can be shared among the people. We need to work together and ensure that what matters to our respective communities is not harmed by radical ideas and actions. We must not believe one group can prevail over another by sheer force or doctrine.

Therefore, co-existence and sharing is the best way to go forward. In this endeavour, we must understand each other better, not just tolerate each other. This requires coming together to discuss issues and cooperate with each other. This Conference organised by ASEAN Society-Philippines, The Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) in Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process and the Office of the National Security Adviser, is an extremely important initiative of the process to understand each other and to deal with common challenges.

The RSIS is very honoured to be invited to participate, contribute ideas and share knowledge at the Conference. The first step is to manage the situation strategically and put in place the possible practical action plans. Our goal must be to achieve long lasting peace and security for our people.

We wish all like-minded participants every success in our joint endeavours. Thank you.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This publication documents the discussions and recommendations of the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia** held in Manila last September 22-23, 2017. Putting together the proceedings of the conference required support, commitment and hard work from a lot of people and organizations.

We thank our co-organizers for their patience and passion: Ambassador Delia Albert and the ASEAN Society-Philippines (ASP); Ambassador Ong Keng Yong and the S. Rajaratnam School for International Studies (RSIS); Secretary Jesus G. Dureza and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP), with special thanks to Undersecretary Diosita Andot, Undersecretary Nabil Tan, and Director Pamela Padilla-Salvan.

The conduct of this first civil society-led conference on the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) relied greatly on the support of our advisory committee: Secretary Dureza, National Security Adviser Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr., Honorable Ruby M. Sahali, University of the Philippines President Danilo L. Concepcion, Cardinal Orlando Quevedo, Dr. Pak Muhammad Sirajuddin Syamsuddin, Mufti Abdulwahid Inju, Ramon S. Ang, and the late Surin Pitsuwan, former ASEAN Secretary General.

Special mention should be given to the full and unwavering support of former President Fidel V. Ramos, Chair of the Advisory Committee. Without his unstinting advise and generous guidance, this conference would not have been realized.

We grieve over the untimely demise of former ASEAN Secretary General Pitsuwan, who was a powerful voice for peace and pluralism.

We are grateful for the assistance provided by the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership / ICAN; the team from the Women and Gender Institute of Miriam College; the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)–Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID); International





Alert; the University of the Philippines particularly the College of Law; and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos-NCR.

We owe a debt of gratitude to our development partners: the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Government; the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation; the State of the Netherlands; the Government of Spain through the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID); the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines; UN Women; and San Miguel Corporation.

We would like to give special mention to Ambassador Luis Antonio Calvo of the Spanish Embassy and Juan Pita, General Coordinator of the AECID for their full support for this publication.

The contributions of Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna have been invaluable from Day One, helping develop the program, identifying and inviting speakers, and sifting through the discussions to surface the key issues and consensus points in the sessions.

Our editorial team poured over documentation materials and listened to thousands of minutes worth of audio recordings to be able to come up with this publication—Atty. Salma Pir T. Rasul, Atty. Maria Flor Luz Garcia, Reynald Trillana, Paul Michael Paraguya, Ellen Charmane S. Cala, Hannah Rose Manaligod, and Sandra Martinquilla. Thanks also to Hannah Ruth Manaligod who was responsible for the book's cover design and layout.

We likewise fully appreciate the documentation team who captured the conference discussions on paper: Joshua Ng Wie (RSIS), Atty. Romina R. Bernardo, and from the UP College of Law—Alexyss Anne P. Alip, Sergio Manuel Arguilla, Juan Paolo M. Artiaga, Juliet Czarina V. Furia, Joshua Anthony Gapay, and Nestor Pol Rasco.

We also thank our administrative team for their support: Ahmed Tillah, Ana Almocera, Rowena Misolas, and Raymond Barco.





Finally, we thank the speakers, facilitators and participants who made the conference a success. The depth of the discourse has been due to the insightful presentations of the speakers and the savvy facilitation by the moderators and facilitators. We thank these subject matter experts and specialists. The interventions of the participants during the sessions have been key to the outcome of the Conference—nuanced reflection of local realities and surfacing of replicable measures that would bolster communities’ resiliencies against violent extremism.

*Shukran! Maraming salamat po!*

**Amina Rasul-Bernardo**

Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy





# LIST OF ACRONYMS

Abu Sayyaf Group	ASG
Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo	AECID
Armed Forces of the Philippines	AFP
ASEAN Commission on Women and Children	ACWC
ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation	AIPR
ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly	AIPA
ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights	AICHR
Asia Philanthropy Circle	APC
Association of Southeast Asian Nations	ASEAN
Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao	ARMM
Bangsamoro Basic Law	BBL
Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters	BIFF
Bishops-Ulama Conference	BUC
Catholic Ulama Bishops Conference of the Philippines	CBCP
Civil Society Organizations	CSOs
College of Social Sciences and Philosophy	CSSP
Commission on Human Rights	CHR
Community Empowerment in Raising Inclusivity and Trust through Technology Application	CERITA
Corporate Social Responsibility	CSR
Counter-Terrorism	CT
Countering Violent Extremism	CVE
Department of Environment and Natural Resources	DENR
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade	DFAT





Department of Health	DOH
Department of Interior and Local Government	DILG
Department of National Defense	DND
Department of Social Work and Development	DSWD
Department of the Interior and Local Government	DILG
European Union	EU
Federal Bureau of Investigation	FBI
Foreign Terrorist Fighters	FTFs
Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces	DCAF
Global Counterterrorism Forum	GCTF
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict	GPPAC
Information and Communication Technologies	ICT
Initiatives for International Dialogue	IID
Institute for Autonomy and Governance	IAG
Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict	IPAC
Internally Displaced Persons	IDPs
International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism	ICPVT
International Labour Organization	ILO
Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant	ISIL/ISIS
Jamaah Anshar Daulah	JAD
Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam	LTTE
Literacy for Peace and Development	LIPAD
Magbassa Kita Foundation, Incorporated	MKFI
Mindanao State University	MSU
Moro Islamic Liberation Front	MILF
Moro National Liberation Front	MNLF
Mujahidin Indonesian Timur	MIT





National Commission on Muslim Filipinos- National Capital Region	NCMF- NCR
National Council of Churches in the Philippines	NCCP
National Counterterrorism Center	NCC
National Nutrition Council	NNC
Neither Employed, nor in Education or Training	NEET
New People's Army	NPA
Non-Government Organizations	NGOs
Non-Traditional Security	NTS
Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process	OPAPP
People's Alliance for Progress Multipurpose Cooperative	PAPMC
Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy	PCID
Philippine International Convention Center	PICC
Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches	PCEC
Prevention of Violent Extremism	PVE
S. Rajaratnam School for International Studies	RSIS
Security Sector Governance	SSG
Security Sector Reform	SSR
Seniors Official Meeting on Transnational Crime	SOMTC
Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism	SEARCCT
The United Nations Children Fund	UNICEF
Ulama League of the Philippines	ULP
United Nations	UN
United Nations Development Programme	UNDP
United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization	UNESCO
United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women	UN Women





United Nations Secretary General	UNSG
United Nations Security Council Resolution	UNSCR
United States Agency for International Development	USAID
United States Institute for Peace	USIP
University of the Philippines	UP
Violent Extremism	VE
Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism	VERLT
Women and Gender Institute	WAGI
Women, Peace and Security	WPS









# Executive Summary







More than 400 Southeast Asian civil society leaders from the women, youth, business, politics, academe and the religious sectors, as well as political leaders, government officials, security analysts, and peace advocates, participated in the **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) in Southeast Asia** held on September 22-23, 2017 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City, Philippines. The Conference primarily discussed how peace-building could be strengthened and how violent extremism (VE) could be prevented.

In 2017, the Philippine Government chaired the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as it celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary. The Conference was part of the calendar of activities for the celebration, attaining greater significance as the Philippines dealt with the occupation of the Islamic City of Marawi in Mindanao by ISIS-affiliated groups.

Even as the Iraqi government declared the end to the country's war against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group following the recapture of Rawa, one of the last remaining ISIL-held towns, security experts had sounded the alarm over ISIS' apparent new "theater of terror" in Southeast Asia.

About a month earlier, Philippine President Rodrigo Roa Duterte proudly declared that Marawi City has been "liberated from terrorist influence" following the defeat of a local terror group that laid siege to the city in what many experts believed to be as the clarion call for ISIS sympathizers to focus efforts in Southeast Asia.

The Marawi Siege, as it has been called, and other terrorist attacks in Indonesia and other communities in Southeast Asia, all point to the growing presence of ISIS in the region. The extremists' expansion can potentially undermine peace, security, and prosperity. In addition, such expansion can complicate existing conflicts in the region. As it is, several reports have suggested the Islamic State's exploitation of the humanitarian crisis in Myanmar-Bangladesh as the Rohingya refugees face inhuman treatment and persecution.





## **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**

The participants recognized the need for a more holistic, and development-oriented approach to prevent VE. The consensus was that efforts to prevent VE needed to focus on addressing the “drivers of conflict” and the underlying causes of extremism—poverty, social injustice, marginalization and alienation. The participants believed that force alone cannot solve this problem. Instead, a multi-stakeholder approach must be put in place, one that recognizes the role of civil society, women, youth, academia, the religious, business, and government in building a tolerant, peaceful and progressive ASEAN community.

The conference was designed with an overarching purpose of allowing Southeast Asian civil society leaders to meet and discuss the threat of VE in society and share lessons from local programs that has achieved success in their respective communities. Networking by the six key sectors—academe, business, political, religious, women, and youth—were organized to propose recommendations on how to counter and prevent VE.

The forum was organized in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the S. Rajaratnam School for International Studies (RSIS); in cooperation with the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)—Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), International Alert, Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) of Miriam College, the University of the Philippines (UP), and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos-National Capital Region (NCMF-NCR). Fiscal and technical assistance were provided by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Australian Government, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of the Swiss Confederation, State of the Netherlands, Government of Spain through the Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional para el Desarrollo (AECID), delegation of the European Union (EU) to the Philippines, UN Women, and the San Miguel Corporation.





## Recommendations

The conference became a venue for the networking of Philippine and ASEAN leaders from the government, academe, business, political, religious, women, and youth sectors. Through the sectoral workshops, recommendations on the PVE were created which can be part of the national action plan. The following is a brief overview of these sectoral proposals.

### A. Academic Sector

The representatives from the academe reached a consensus that academic institutions, by their very mandate on instruction, research and extension services, play a key role in the efforts towards the PVE. The academicians stated that the education system must be improved on the basis of how it encourages and promotes peace education, diversity and integration. In particular, they noted how access to quality education play a critical role in helping young people distance themselves from extremism and resist the so-called “pull factors,”<sup>1</sup> that may drive them to recruitment. They added that youth and adult illiteracy needs to be addressed.

Moreover, the academe cannot limit itself to just producing skilled individuals but they must also consider developing holistic individuals who are respectful of human dignity and human rights, tolerant of diversity and are proponents of peace.

They also urged universities and other academic institutions to tailor-fit their extension services to include guidance counseling programs for its students, as well as programs that promote social enterprise and sustain community initiatives especially in communities vulnerable to violent extremism. In this manner, the youth are handed a platform for articulating their issues and concerns while being given a measure of guidance.

The participants agreed that building effective partnerships between the education sector and the greater community, including law enforcement agencies, may help in developing opportunities for students which will allow them to engage in positive activities in their communities, and may create a sense of shared responsibility for the latter's safety and development. Establishing

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1 Pull factors refer to the purported benefits offered by an extremist organization that “pull” vulnerable individuals to join: ideology, strong bonds of brotherhood and sense of belonging, reputation building, prospect of fame or glory, among others.





effective partnerships was seen as important in developing resilience to the divisive narratives expounded by extremist groups.<sup>2</sup>

In the field of research, increased collaboration and coordination with various sectors of society will enhance the impact of academic studies on the PVE and countering violent extremism (CVE). Engagement with the local communities, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGOs), the government and even the military were perceived as a mode of promoting discourse on the issues of violent extremism as well as a means for the academe to align its objectives with other sectors to ensure that research outputs can be put to actual use.

## **B. Business Sector**

Poverty and lack of economic opportunities were viewed as some of the critical drivers of VE. The participants underscored the critical importance of the economic aspect of creating secure and just societies. The role of the private sector was seen as vital in the discussions. Companies were seen as being in a unique position to partner with governments and the civil society in a long-term effort to address the underlying conditions fomenting extremist ideologies and recruitment.<sup>3</sup>

For this reason, the participants urged governments to include private companies as key players in the crafting of approaches and solutions. Moreover, dialogue and trust between the private sector, governments and civil society were deemed crucial if a shared understanding is to be built in relation to the PVE.

The creation of economic opportunities was acknowledged as a key intervention point for business in PVE efforts. Economic activity would afford vulnerable populations, particularly the youth, with viable employment and income generation options rather than armed struggle. The participants also called for programs enabling the private sector to establish relationships and perhaps develop PVE programs with the community in their specific areas of operation.

2 Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation. December 2013. *Role of Education in Countering Violent Extremism*. New York.

3 World Economic Forum. February 2015. *How companies can help defuse violent extremism*.





### **C. Political Sector**

The participants from the political sector cited the UN Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism as an important guidepost in defining the role of politics and government in preventing VE:

Violent extremism tends to thrive in an environment characterized by poor governance, democracy deficits, corruption and a culture of impunity for unlawful behaviour engaged in by the State or its agents. When poor governance is combined with repressive policies and practices which violate human rights and the rule of law, the potency of the lure of violent extremism tends to be heightened.

The participants sought the government's adoption of a "whole-of-society" approach to address both governance and development issues. They stressed the fact that ISIS and other terror groups tended to exploit grievances of citizens, especially those of the minorities and marginalized groups, as effective elements in recruitment narratives. A heavy-handed, militarized approach by the government tend to deepen these grievances, thereby increasing the possibility of VE.

Respecting human rights; championing the autonomy of minority groups; creating a free and democratic space; as well as more participatory arenas for women and the youth were cited by participants as effective long-term solutions to the problem of growing VE in the region.

The political sector also exhorted national governments to formulate a PVE national action plan. Following the UN Plan of Action, the participants urged governments to provide a national plan that is "multidisciplinary, with inputs from a wide range of government actors, such as law enforcement, social service providers and ministries of education, youth and religious affairs, as well as non-governmental actors, including youth, families, women, religious, cultural and educational leaders, civil society organizations, the media, and the private sector."





#### ***D. Religious Sector***

“All religions are religions of peace.” This theme guided the participants in their workshop on the role of the religious sector in preventing VE.

Religious leaders were acknowledged as integral members of civil society and key contributors to public and political discourse. In many areas, people trust their religious leaders more than their political leaders. Engaging the religious in developing plans to prevent VE was deemed critical. The participants specifically noted the vital role of religious leaders in fostering interfaith dialogues. Interfaith initiatives were considered essential in countering the divisive narratives of extremists.

The participants called upon the religious sector to bring together people from different faiths and cultures to build meaningful relationships by sharing their cultures, beliefs, and traditions, and by creating a “safe space” for friendly disagreement. There was also a suggestion to build a broad-based, grassroots, popular movement for peace, to complement security and political initiatives. Religion, which was often misused to divide and inflame, was likewise noted as presenting a potent unifying force for tearing down walls of ignorance and fear.

The participants from Marawi City related that the Marawi siege was not a religious war but a war against terrorism. They further noted the positive stories about Christians and Muslims helping each other during this crisis.

The group also recommended the conduct of training programs for religious leaders on how to use social media to counter VE online as well as strategic communications workshops to prevent hate speech and incitement to violence through alternative narratives. Cognizant of the valuable role of women faith leaders, the participants encouraged the support for women's organizations involved in the PVE. Additionally, they encouraged the religious leaders to network at the national level and set a meeting with national education agencies to advocate for a school curricula that will include and value diversity and equality.







## **E. Women Sector**

At the workshop of the women sector, the participants cited the significant role of women—who, more often than not, are highly influential in the family and their communities—in both countering and abetting terrorism and VE. This dual role is even more critical as there has been a steady increase in the radicalization and recruitment of young girls and women by female terrorists.

During the discussion, the workshop participants cited the United Nations (UN) report that stated that “while women do sometimes play an active role in violent extremist organizations, it is also no coincidence that societies for which gender equality indicators are higher are less vulnerable to violent extremism.”<sup>4</sup>

The participants likewise argued that women should be part of the development of national plans that would prevent VE and those that would spread peace-building initiatives. They urged national and local governments to recognize the role of women by giving them meaningful roles in peace-building programs.

International funding institutions were likewise encouraged to increase their support for women organizations and groups championing the participation of women in peace processes and in preventing VE. As the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) noted, “these organizations often have deep and meaningful relationships with their communities and a track record of addressing community needs giving them legitimacy to be mediators within their communities.”<sup>5</sup>

Additionally, capacity-building training for women should be organized to assist them in navigating social media and defining peace narratives to counter extremism online.

On the aspect of political participation, the attendees urged government and other stakeholders to increase the political and democratic spaces for women. They noted that political participation should not be limited only to electoral participation but also in championing the role of women in the community.

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4 UN Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee.

5 United States Institute for Peace. 2015. *Charting a New Course: Women Preventing Violent Extremism*. Washington DC.





## **F. Youth Sector**

The young workshop participants attributed the urgent need for youth involvement in the process of preventing VE to two reasons: first is the fact that the youth have become primary targets of radicalization by recruiters; and second, the youth have evolved a distinct language of their own and their dexterity in social media have made them indispensable partners in neutralizing the lure of violent extremist groups.

One youth participant echoed the plenary recommendation to “empower ASEAN youth to participate in countering radicalization through, among others, developing messages that will resonate with young people being targeted by violent extremists;” and, to take a leadership role in “strengthening our strategies in cyberspace and social media allowing our people to build peaceful communities online, challenging messages of hate and intolerance with positive messages of trust and acceptance of our diversity.”

Moreover, national governments were expected to integrate young women and men into decision-making processes at local and national levels, through the creation of youth councils and similar mechanisms that provide young women and men a platform for participating in mainstream political discourse.

The participants expected political leaders to set the ideal standards by upholding the universal values of equality and mutual respect rather than engaging in acts and rhetorics that divide people and undermines diversity and tolerance of differences.

Government and businesses were urged to provide more economic opportunities for young people especially those who come from the marginalized sectors of the population.

Lastly, the youth sector recommended for society to invest in quality education, both formal and non-formal (including functional literacy). Such education would facilitate intercultural dialogue and equip young people with a clear appreciation of citizenship and human rights, thereby ensuring the youth's positive impact on society.





### **G. *Special Briefing Workshop on Marawi***

A special briefing workshop on the Marawi situation was moderated by Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) Undersecretary Austere Panadero, with Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto and Dr. Safrulla Dipatuan as resource persons.

Ambassador Lanto provided an overview of Marawi City's history, location, culture, and its significance in Mindanao as the center for educational, political, religious, and economic affairs of the Maranaos.

As news reports dwelt on the immediate cause of the siege, Ambassador Lanto mentioned its underlying causes, mainly poverty, injustice, and some issues on the educational system. His main point was that the Islamic narrative taught in some of the *madrasa* schools could lead to the easy conversion to extremism, particularly of young men.

Dr. Dipatuan centered on the failure of the Philippine government to implement the peace agreements with the Moro liberation movements. The frustrations and demoralization harbored by the Bangsamoro throughout the peace process pushed some of the Moro people to extremism and radicalism. Dr. Dipatuan strongly believed that the end of the Marawi siege would not equate to the end of radicalism in Mindanao. The way to a realistic achievement of the latter is to give the Bangsamoro people "political space to achieve its aspiration for self-governance under a context of a larger Philippine nation state" which entails the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL).

Although it is believed that the Marawi siege would cease soon,<sup>6</sup> the government must be able to craft both short- and long-term solutions for the city's recovery. The participants clarified that recovery and rehabilitation should not be limited only to physical infrastructures, but should also include stabilizing elements that would allow the government to fulfill its functions, such as being able to deliver basic social services and livelihood to the constituents of the city. For the participants, the long-term solution rests mainly on the passing of the BBL. The law affords the Bangsamoro their own political space and addresses their aspirations for self-determination. After the BBL's enactment, the government could shift towards federalism to really put closure on the peace talks.

6 At the time of this workshop, the military has yet to declare Marawi as liberated from local terror forces.





The session debated on the sequencing of the two long term solutions—BBL or federalism. Dr. Dipatuan posited that the enactment of the BBL is a more realistic goal. It was just a matter of the present government agreeing with the BBL again. The speakers' hope for the law's expedited passage was joined by the rest of the attendees. Finally, the participants believed that the recommendations by Mindanao constituents should be considered since they are the direct beneficiaries of such alternatives.

## **H. *Special Workshop on Security Sector Reform (SSR)***

A special workshop was convened with the support of the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) focusing on security sector reform (SSR) and security sector governance (SSG).

To effectively discharge its mandate, the security sector must comply with the norms of good SSG. Such standards include accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, transparency, as well as having responsive and inclusive security providers.

In the ASEAN context, SSR and SSG norms must be aligned with democratic principles, ensuring the primacy of the rule of law and respect for human rights. Using this framework, SSR and SSG can become effective means of preventing VE.

This shift was imperative to keep apace with constant changes in security environments and threats. The limitations of the traditional “enemy-centered” military framework to address modern security threats were also raised and concurred upon by most of the participants.

The workshop participants recommended the application of the principles of good governance to the security sector. The effective implementation of reforms would bring us closer to the embodiment of these good governance principles and the avoidance of marginalization, discrimination, and oppression of people, resulting in the PVE. To achieve these, internal accountability mechanisms must be put in place and focus must be shifted to the professionalization of security institutions (e.g., ensuring that they are not made to perform tasks that they are not trained on and/or mandated to do) and filling in governance gaps. In addition, the participants said that there must be a balance between effectiveness and accountability. Security provided by security providers should be within the context of their mandate, to everyone's satisfaction.





The participants likewise called for a comprehensive and a clear national security plan to guide security reform on how to respond, change, and train, given the types of new challenges presented by violent extremists. They also urged everybody—the actors, the state and the people—to be aware of these strategies.

It is also imperative to have a strong independent oversight over the security sector to remind all actors of the norms that should guide the security sector regarding the protection of human rights, women, civilians, children, and ensure that they are respected nationwide, at all times, and not in a selective manner.

Finally, they exhorted ASEAN countries to cooperate, with a regional perspective, and act with an awareness that one country's security problem is also the security problem of the others. Only this concerted and united effort can provide the region with the ability to counter extremism.

## **I. Conference Statement**

At the closing plenary session, the participants approved a statement calling on their governments and the ASEAN to formulate action plans for PVE, following the call of the United Nations (UN) and as supported by the ASEAN. The participants emphasized that the formulation and implementation of the action plans must be participatory and inclusive. The statement was turned over to the Department of National Defense (DND) Undersecretary Cardozo M. Luna, who represented President Rodrigo Roa Duterte at the event.





## **Statement of the Participants of the Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia**

*Manila, Philippines | 22-23 September 2017*

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**We**, the participants of the Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, in Manila, Philippines, comprising of leaders from the government, ASEAN civil society, women, youth, business, academia, religious, and political organizations;

**Realizing** the threat posed by violent extremism—exacerbated by the attempts of violent extremist groups such as ISIS to gain foothold in our communities—to our security, democracy, and prosperity;

**Understanding** the need to prevent such violent extremism—including those resulting from state actions—and defend our communities from radicalization;

**Understanding** further the role of ASEAN civil society, the imperative of collective action, and the overcoming of our differences, in order to effectively counter violent extremism;

**Reaffirming** the principles laid out in the Joint Communiqué of the 50<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Manila, Philippines last 5 August 2017 including “*our commitment to regionalism and multilateralism as important principles and frameworks of cooperation to promote regional and international peace, stability, prosperity and progress;*”



**Reaffirming** further the Joint Communiqué’s declaration of the “importance and effectiveness of the whole-of-nation approach as opposed to a purely military option in combating the problem, including through preventive education, involvement of women and youth and civil society, promotion of peace, tolerance, respect for diversity and moderation as a counter-narrative, and more effective use and more effective measures in preventing the misuse of internet, social media and cyberspace for terrorist activities through countering terrorist messages online;”

**Asserting** the critical role played by women, youth, religious, business, academia, politics and government in inculcating the culture of peace, tolerance, moderation, democracy, rule of law and human rights to our people as effective means of preventing radicalization;

**Recognizing** the important role played by social media and technology in the recruitment of ISIS and the radicalization of some of our people as well as in our collective efforts to defend our communities, especially the youth against radicalization;

**Reaffirming** the principles and action agenda committed to by the 10 ASEAN Member States in the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism that was adopted during the 11<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime last 20 September 2017;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Strengthen multi-sectoral convergence in addressing the “drivers of conflicts” and the root causes of violent extremism—poverty, social injustice and inequities, marginalization, deprivation and alienation, especially of the women and the youth, and intolerance;



2. Increase our efforts at sharing experiences and learning from the initiatives of others by continuously improving our networking, communications and collaborations;
3. Strengthen our work towards winning the “hearts and minds” of our people by enhancing education programs designed to inculcate the values of peace, tolerance, respect, and our commitment to the rule of law, democracy, social justice, human rights and freedom;
4. Continue our work with religious leaders and scholars and other stakeholders to counter the extremists’ misappropriation of religious doctrines to preach the use of violence; strengthen our education system, in particular the Madrasah, in inculcating the right values to the youth, and, create platforms for both intercultural/intracultural and interfaith and intrafaith dialogue;
5. Empower ASEAN youth to participate in countering extremism through, among others, developing messages and counter narratives that will resonate with young people being targeted by violent extremists;
6. Engage women, who are at the forefront of the effects of violent extremism, and as such cannot be ignored in any action plan to counter violent extremism;
7. Strengthen our strategies in cyberspace and social media allowing our people to build peaceful communities online, challenging messages of violence, hate, and intolerance with positive messages of trust, counter narratives, and acceptance of our diversity;
8. Encourage regional and international partners to continue supporting civil society and community-based efforts towards a multi-sectoral approach to preventing violent extremism;







9. Strengthen our resolve and effort to engage and empower the youth and women as the focal and priority group of deradicalization measures of the government and civil society; and
10. Use the knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned shared at the Conference to formulate and develop inputs for submission to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in the development of an ASEAN Plan of Action to prevent and counter the rise of violent extremism as well as that of national action plans of other ASEAN Member States.





*Left to Right: Amb. Delia Albert, Usec. Cardozo M. Luna, Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Usec. Nabil Tan, and Amb. Ong Keng Yong*



# Introduction







## Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia

On a rainy Tuesday on October 17, 2017, speaking before dozens of soldiers in full battle gear, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte proudly proclaimed: “Ladies and gentlemen, I hereby declare Marawi City liberated from terrorist influence.”

The declaration of “liberation” happened on the President’s 7<sup>th</sup> visit to war-torn Marawi City as the fighting between state forces and ISIS-affiliated local terror bands, known as the Maute Group and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) entered its 148<sup>th</sup> day.

The declaration was, of course, largely symbolic. Even as their commander-in-chief was claiming the city’s freedom from “terrorist influence,” military forces continued its operations to flush out the remaining Maute Group members and rescue hostages. The day before the “liberation,” state security forces were reported to have neutralized Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf terror group and the proclaimed “emir for Southeast Asia” of ISIS. Also “neutralized” was Omar Maute, leader of the local bandit group that laid siege to the “Islamic City of Marawi” on May 23, 2017.

At the onset, the “liberation” of Marawi City was undoubtedly a welcome development. It ended the violence that had gripped the Islamic City for five months and caused the evacuation of more than 140,000 people representing 70% of its population.<sup>1</sup> On the other hand, many security experts and civil society leaders felt that the “liberation” did not stop the emerging threat of violent extremism in the region. Months after the liberation, majority of the Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) remained in camps, with no rehabilitation plan in place to allow them to return to their homes. The battle may be won but the war still goes on.

The defeat of the Maute Group and the end of the Marawi siege did not mean that the threat of ISIS, or of VE, is over. Even the attempt of Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) Chief of Staff Gen. Rey Leonardo Guerrero to clarify

<sup>1</sup> Caroline Arguillas. *Bakwits from Marawi*. Mindanews: June 1, 2017. (<http://www.mindanews.com/top-stories/2017/06/bakwits-from-marawi-140155-residents-or-nearly-70-of-total-population/>)





the proclamation of President Duterte<sup>2</sup> that the threat from terrorists was substantially over cannot mask the growing presence of ISIS, not just in the Philippines, but in the Southeast Asian region.

Marawi was simply a chapter in the story of the increasing threat of VE in Southeast Asia. The siege of Marawi—perpetrated by a ragtag band of local terrorists inspired by, and affiliated to, the Islamic State—was part of a series of events that inaugurated ISIS' new “theater of terror” in Southeast Asia.

### The End and the Beginning

Two months after the liberation of Marawi and about 8,000 kilometers away, the Prime Minister of Iraq, Haider al-Abadi, with five Iraqi flags and dozens of servicemen behind him, proudly announced: “Honorable Iraqis, your land has been completely liberated. The dream of liberation is now a reality.”<sup>3</sup>

He announced that Iraqi forces had regained complete control of the Iraqi-Syrian border following the recapture of Rawa in November, as well as Raqqa, Deir Az Zor, Tal-Afar, and, al-Qaim. The retaking of these previously ISIS-held towns was as stunning as ISIS' invasion of Iraq three years earlier.

Ramadi, for instance, was seized by ISIS in May 2015 but was recaptured by Iraqi forces seven months later. The similarities between the Battle of Ramadi (2015–16) and the liberation of Marawi were quite stark. In both cases, airstrikes were launched by government forces to recapture the city from ISIS, after several months of occupation. Both liberation efforts took months to clear the areas from live munition. Both Ramadi and Marawi City suffered more damage than any other area affected by armed conflict in Syria and the Philippines, respectively.

As the Islamic State withdrew from the battlefields of Iraq and Syria, it had set its eyes on the turbulent grounds of a region which is home to one of the largest Muslim populations in the world: Southeast Asia. The general consensus

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- 2 Allan Nawal, Jeoffrey Maitem, et al. 18 October 2017. *Marawi 'liberated' from terrorists but battle drags on*. inquirer.net. Accessed through: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/938592/president-duterte-marawi-city-liberated-terrorists#ixzz5AFldNN1y>
  - 3 Maher Chmaytelli, Ahmed Aboulenein. 09 December 2017. *Iraq declares final victory over Islamic State*. Reuters. Accessed through: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-mideast-crisis-iraq-islamicstate/iraq-declares-final-victory-over-islamic-state-idUSKBN1E30B9>





among security experts, in fact, was of ISIS opening up a new “theater of terror” in Southeast Asia, with Marawi as the main attraction to date.

Defense ministers from Southeast Asia sounded the alarm over the rise of terrorism in the region, specifically warning about the expansion of ISIS. The Shangri-La Dialogue<sup>4</sup> in Singapore has constantly highlighted terrorism as the region's “biggest security concern.” It had, in fact, identified the Philippines as a potential “magnet for extremists.” At this same conference, Indonesia's defense minister, Gen. Ryamizard Ryacudu, warned his Philippine counterpart of the estimated 1,200 ISIS operatives already deployed in the Philippines, including 40 from Indonesia.

This assessment had been reflected in public opinion surveys showing growing concerns about VE. According to a 2017 study by the Pew Research Center, 62% of people surveyed from across seven Asia-Pacific nations saw ISIS as a major threat.

In addition, 6 out of 10 Muslims in Malaysia were worried about VE. Interestingly, in Indonesia, the public was evenly split: 48% expressed concern while 48% were unconcerned.

The same study reported that “half or more of Muslims in most countries surveyed said that suicide bombings and other acts of violence that target civilians can *never* be justified in the name of Islam.” In Indonesia, 81% shared this opinion but in Malaysia “roughly a quarter of Muslims (27%) took the view that attacks on civilians are sometimes or often justified.”<sup>5</sup>

## Beyond Marawi

A series of terror attacks, online chatter, and intelligence reports preceded the Marawi siege.<sup>6</sup> While the attack took the general public by surprise, the threat of VE, particularly the emergence of ISIS, in the political and social landscape of the region, has long been established.

- 4 The Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore is organized by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and is the most important regular gathering of defense professionals in the Asia-Pacific region.
- 5 Jacob Poushter and Dorothy Manevich. 01 August 2017. *Globally, People Point to ISIS and Climate Change as Leading Security Threats*. Pew Research Center Global Attitudes and Trends. Accessed through: <http://www.pewglobal.org/2017/08/01/globally-people-point-to-isis-and-climate-change-as-leading-security-threats/>
- 6 In fact, a day after the siege a Philippine military spokesperson denied any links with the Islamic State and the presence ISIS in the Philippines.





The Jakarta-based Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict (IPAC) reported that Philippine militants and terrorists immediately pledged support after Al-Baghdadi proclaimed the establishment of the caliphate. On July 2, 2014, a video of some detainees in a Philippine prison pledging allegiance to Al-Baghdadi surfaced. A few days later, Isnilon Hapilon, the Abu Sayyaf leader, and his men followed suit with their own pledge of allegiance.<sup>7</sup>

In Indonesia, Jemaah Islamiyyah leader and co-founder Abu Bakar Bashir pledged allegiance to Baghdadi. Another group, the Mujahidin Indonesian Timur (MIT), through its leader, Abu Warda Santoso, similarly swore allegiance to the Islamic State in 2014.

In September 2014, Malay and Indonesian-speaking mujahideen fighters in Syria formed *Katibah Nusantara*, a Southeast Asia military wing of ISIS. It functioned primarily as a nexus of local terror networks, including training for recruits, and communications link to the network of pro-ISIS groups in Syria.

In May 2015, the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID), in partnership with RSIS, organized the Philippines' first national conference on the threat of ISIS. The conference, titled "Radicalization in East Asia: Addressing the Challenges of the Expanding ISIS Influence"<sup>8</sup> was attended by senior officials of the executive and the military. The resource persons stressed that ISIS presence in Mindanao, through armed groups that pledged allegiance, was a reality. They emphasized the interconnectedness of the events in the different parts of the world to domestic politics and how issues in the island of Mindanao could have implications both for the region and the international community.

Rohan Gunaratna, the head of the Singapore-based International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism (ICPVT), estimated that at least 60 groups in Southeast Asia have sworn their allegiance to the ISIS caliphate established in Iraq and Syria.

In response, ISIS officially recognized these pledges of allegiance on February 2016 and reportedly declared two *wilayats* (provinces) in the southern Philippines, one under Isnilon Hapilon, known as Wilayat Filipines, and another

7 Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict. 21 July 2017. *Marawi, The "East Asia Wilayah" and Indonesia*. In IPAC Report No. 38: Jakarta, Indonesia.

8 Conference held on May 15, 2015 at the EDSA Shangri-La Hotel. RSIS security experts led by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, former ASEAN Secretary General, warned of the presence of ISIS or ISIS sympathizers in Mindanao.







under Abu Abdillah, the East Asia Wilayat.<sup>9</sup> On December 8, 2015, the Islamic State, through a posting in one of its social media channels, referred to Abu Anas al-Muhajir, a Malaysian deployed in Basilan, as “amir Imaratu al-Mashriqi Khilafah ash-Sharqiyyah” or commander of the eastern region of the eastern caliphate.<sup>10</sup> Al-Muhajir was eventually killed in February 2016 during a clash with Philippine troops in Basilan. ISIS exploited this by extolling Abu Anas as a martyr on social media.

On July 2016, ISIS released a video identifying Hapilon as its representative in the Philippines. US intelligence officials called this development a “game-changer” because it proved that “the Philippines (is now) directly under (ISIS) terror network.”<sup>11</sup>

ISIS had also stepped up its propaganda war through social media. In June 2016, it released a video enjoining the mujahideen in the region to fight in Mindanao in lieu of Syria or Iraq. The declarations of allegiance to ISIS and propaganda videos of the Marawi siege were posted on social media to further strengthen its recruitment.

From 2016 onwards, several terror attacks in Southeast Asian countries had been linked to, or claimed by, ISIS. Seven people, including five of the attackers, an Indonesian, and a Canadian, were killed in a couple of brazen attacks in Jakarta on January 14, 2016. The terror attack, which injured 20 others, was the first ISIS attack on the largest Muslim nation in the world. In a statement, ISIS acknowledged that “a group of soldiers of the caliphate in Indonesia targeted a gathering from the crusader alliance that fights the Islamic State in Jakarta,” prompting the chief of police of Jakarta to say: “ISIS is behind this attack definitely.”<sup>12</sup>

9 Bilveer Singh. 17 July 2017. *Southeast Asia Braces for the Post-Islamic State Era*. The Diplomat. Accessed through: <https://thediplomat.com/2017/07/southeast-asia-braces-for-the-post-islamic-state-era/>

10 Institute for Policy Analysis of Conflict. 21 July 2017. *Marawi, The “East Asia Wilayah” and Indonesia*. In IPAC Report No. 38: Jakarta, Indonesia.

11 Fernando G. Sepe, Jr. Aug 28 2016. *ISIS recognizing Hapilon a game-changer: U.S. military intel officials*. ABS-CBN News. Accessed through: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/28/16/isis-recognizing-hapilon-a-game-changer-us-military-intel-officials>

12 Kanupriya Kapoor and Darren Whiteside. 14 January 2016. *Islamic State claims Jakarta attack, targets Indonesia for first time*. Reuters. Accessed through: <https://www.reuters.com/article/indonesia-blast/islamic-state-claims-jakarta-attack-targets-indonesia-for-first-time-idUSKCN0US0BW20160114>





On June 28, 2016 a grenade blast at a nightclub in Puchong, Malaysia wounded eight people, including a woman from China. Malaysian authorities would later tag ISIS member Muhamad Wanndy Mohamad Jedi from Syria as the one who gave the instructions for the terror attack after Muhammad Wanndy claimed on his Facebook page that the attack had been carried out by two followers of ISIS. The blast was the first successful ISIS attack in Malaysia.<sup>13</sup>

Almost three months later, on September 2, 2016, a bomb blasted at a night market in Davao City that claimed the lives of 14 people and injured 70 more. The attack compelled President Duterte—a former mayor of Davao City—to declare a “state of lawlessness” in the city. The ISIS-affiliated Abu Sayyaf Group claimed responsibility for the blast, which its spokesperson described as a “call for unity to all mujahideen in the country.”<sup>14</sup>

The day after the attack on Marawi City, a pair of suicide bombings hit a Jakarta bus terminal, killing three police officers and injuring 10 others. The attack was attributed by local authorities to the Islamic State.<sup>15</sup> Indonesian police identified the suicide bombers as members of the Jamaah Anshar Daulah (JAD) terrorist group supportive of ISIS and led by Bahrn Naim.<sup>16</sup>

## Fertile Ground

Southeast Asia, of course, has been no stranger to terrorism and violent extremism. Since the 9/11 terror attacks, Al-Qaeda affiliated organizations in Southeast Asia, principally Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf, was able to launch several violent attacks including the 2002 triple bombings in Bali, Indonesia that killed 202 people, the suicide bombing at the Marriott Hotel, the 2004 ferry bombing in Manila Bay that killed 116, the bombing outside the Australian

13 The Straits Times. 04 July 2016. *Malaysian police confirm nightclub blast first successful attack by ISIS on Malaysian soil*. Accessed through: <http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/malaysian-police-confirm-isis-elements-behind-nightclub-blast>

14 RJ Rosalado. 03 September 2016. *Abu Sayyaf owns up to Davao blast, warns of more attacks*. ABS-CBN News. Accessed through: <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/09/03/16/abu-sayyaf-owns-up-to-davao-blast-warns-of-more-attacks>

15 Samantha Hawley. 25 May 2017. *Jakarta bombing linked to Islamic State, Indonesian police say*. ABC News: Australia. Accessed through: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-05-25/police-say-dual-suicide-bombing-jakarta-linked-to-islamic-state/8559292>

16 The Jakarta Post. May 27, 2017. *Police release identities of Jakarta suicide bombers*. The Jakarta Post: Jakarta. Accessed through: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/05/27/police-release-identities-of-jakarta-suicide-bombers.html>





Embassy in Jakarta, and the bombings at the J. W. Marriott and the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Jakarta in 2009.<sup>17</sup>

In addition, Asia has been the site of some of the most protracted conflicts in the world. The continent has continued to be particularly prone to subnational conflicts, defined as armed conflicts over control of a subnational territory within a sovereign state. Since 1992, there were already 26 subnational conflicts in South and Southeast Asia, including that of Mindanao in the Philippines; southern Thailand; Aceh and Papua in Indonesia; Assam and Kashmir in India; northern Sri Lanka; and Baluchistan in Pakistan. Myanmar is included, with its seven major subnational conflicts, six of them lasting for more than five decades. Most of these conflicts were products of post-colonial complications related to nation-building and state-formation.<sup>18</sup>

ISIS seemed to have anchored its build-up in Southeast Asia on the exploitation of these conflicts, particularly on the disenchantment of Muslims in Southeast Asia towards their governments. By playing on the political, economic and religious tensions in the region, ISIS had made Southeast Asia a potential battlefield for its war. Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo referred to the global security map as a “heat map” which was developed by the United States’ National Counterterrorism Center (NCC), to show the worldwide expansion of ISIS as of August 2016.<sup>19</sup>

However, the spread of ISIS should be viewed with circumspection. The ASEAN should not underestimate the threat of ISIS in the region nor exaggerate the extent of its reach.

In the first place, Southeast Asia is not the Middle East. Despite the lack of actual physical presence, ISIS effectively used the war in Iraq and Syria to heighten recruitment of local terror groups in the region. ISIS has primarily relied on the spread of false ideology through social media.

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- 17 Inquirer.Net. 03 February 2012. *A look at major terror attacks in Southeast Asia*. Accessed through: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/139063/a-look-at-major-terror-attacks-in-southeast-asia#ixz-z5AQzZyGYq>
  - 18 Thomas Parks Nat Colletta Ben Oppenheim. 2013. *The Contested Corners of Asia: Subnational Conflict and International Development Assistance*. The Asia Foundation: San Francisco, USA.
  - 19 Amina Rasul. 05 August 2016. *Heat Map*. In *Surveil*. Business World. Accessed through: <http://www.bworldonline.com/content.php?section=Opinion&title=heat-map&id=131502>





While there are varying estimates on the number of Southeast Asians who have gone to Syria<sup>20</sup> to fight with ISIS—one estimate claims that 700 Indonesians and 100 Malaysians have joined the Syria fight—these numbers do not even come close to the influx of ISIS supporters coming from Europe, Africa and Australia. For military and government authorities, the more troublesome circumstance were the returning terrorist fighters who took advantage of the porous borders and weak immigration security in the region. Further, the returning fighters from Syria and Iraq espoused a heightened militant ideology, tactical expertise, organizational capabilities and discipline to wage war in their home front which they can utilize to establish a nexus for ISIS and local militant organizations.

Finally, the conflicts in Southeast Asia have become a complex phenomenon. These episodes of violent upheavals cannot be conflated into a single narrative. For this reason, any attempt by ISIS to unify these groups under its wing would have to take into consideration the myriad of contexts that gave rise to these tensions. As Joseph Chinyong Liow noted:

For the most part, the presence of ISIS in Southeast Asia is expressed in the form of radical groups and individuals who have taken oaths of allegiance to ISIS. In other words, the ISIS phenomenon is imbricated with indigenous jihadi agendas and movements. This should prompt a further consideration: the appeal of ISIS in Southeast Asia differs depending on the country.<sup>21</sup>

The conflicts in the regions cannot be conflated into one singular struggle. This realization would be the key in understanding the nature of VE in each country and consequently, in designing PVE measures.

For instance, Malaysia employed a “hybrid approach” to counter VE. It had combined both “hard” and “soft” measures to solve the issue with relative success. Strengthened counter-terrorism legislation and vigilant law enforcement

20 In fact, multiple reports claim that two Malaysian suicide bombers from *Katibah Nusantara*, the so-called Malay Archipelago Combat Unit of ISIS had blown themselves up in Syria and Iraq resulting to multiple casualties.

21 Joseph Chinyong Liow. 27 April 2016. *ISIS in the Pacific: Assessing terrorism in South-east Asia and the threat to the homeland*. The Brookings Institution: Washington DC. <https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/isis-in-the-pacific-assessing-terrorism-in-southeast-asia-and-the-threat-to-the-homeland/>





operations tackled the visible threat, while sustained deradicalization initiatives mitigated the threat beneath the surface, challenging the warped ideology that underlied Islamist terrorism. For its part, Malaysia continually emphasized that a military solution alone would not solve the problems of radicalization and VE.<sup>22</sup>

Singapore, on the other hand, was able to escape the terror attacks that hit its neighboring countries like the Philippines, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Despite this, however, the city state was not lulled into complacency. On the contrary, the Singaporean government had been cognizant that its financial might and close ties with Western powers could render the city state as a target for terror. Consequently, the government had taken precautions to bolster its counter-terrorism and PVE initiatives.

The government operated under the assumption that a terrorist attack was imminent and they have been proactive in its response to many cases involving self-radicalized Singaporeans seeking to join militants in Syria and stage violent attacks at home.

For now, ISIS inroads in Singapore had been limited at best. While its well-honed, social media-based propaganda tool is well at work in the region, very few Singaporeans have been confirmed to have joined ISIS. This was despite the surfacing of a 2017 video of a Singaporean who exhorted Muslims to join the terror group and even challenged United Kingdom's Prince Harry to a fight.

Dr. Shashi Jayakumar, Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security of RSIS, attributed ISIS' limited influence to the whole-of-government approach to countering/prevention of VE (C/PVE). To illustrate, he cited Singapore After-Care's efforts to rehabilitate detainees as an important tool in preventing recidivism.

Dr. Jayakumar concluded by saying that Singapore is focused on the "bounce-backability" of a society when an attack does slip through. It is imperative for Singaporeans to come back together towards healing and restoring mutual trust, understanding, after such attack. He emphasized the need to counter intolerance or what he called "tolerance for intolerance."

He mentioned the importance of building multi-sectoral "communities of practice" involving not just security or terrorism experts but also social media

22 Michael Hart. 02 January 2018. *Malaysia's Counterterrorism Strategy: Keeping ISIS in Check*. Accessed through: <https://www.geopoliticalmonitor.com/malaysias-counterterrorism-strategy-keeping-isis-in-check/>





users, as well as advertising and marketing professionals who can develop effective messages.

Thailand has a long experience with insurgency in the southern part of its territory but most experts agree that there is “no evidence of jihadists making inroads among the separatists fronts fighting for what they see as the liberation of their homeland, Pattani.”<sup>23</sup>

This was despite several reports of ISIS activities in the area. In May 2017, for instance, Malaysian police found an ISIS terrorist cell suspected of smuggling arms from Thailand to Malaysia, proving that the group has at least a toehold.<sup>24</sup>

But Don Pathan, founding member of the Pattani Forum in Thailand, expounded that the conflict and extremism in southern Thailand, which is 80% Muslim-Malay, is essentially nationalist and ethnic instead of being religious. He further explained that the conflict is not a Buddhist versus Muslim conflict but is a result of the Thailand government's historical assimilation policies that do not respect nor accept the political and cultural validity of the Malay-Muslim identity and its heavy-handed approach when dealing with the insurgency. He argued that Thailand must incorporate the south into its national narrative.

Notwithstanding the need for vigilance over ISIS propagandists' exploitation of insurgencies and government oppression, the Thai government's conflict with the ethnic Malay, Muslim-majority region (containing Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat near the country's border with Malaysia) has remained essentially local and disconnected with the “global jihad.”

The situation would be different in Myanmar, where the humanitarian crisis precipitated by the persecution of the Rohingya—a Muslim minority in a Buddhist-dominated country—has attracted the attention of ISIS recruitment.

The United Nations and many other countries condemned what human rights organizations have labeled as “ethnic cleansing” employed by Myanmar's military resulting to hundreds of deaths and sparked an exodus of more than 410,000 people from Rakhine to Bangladesh.<sup>25</sup>

23 International Crisis Group. 08 November 2017. *Jihadism in Southern Thailand: A Phantom Menace*. Accessed through: <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-east-asia/thailand/291-jihadism-southern-thailand-phantom-menace>

24 Ralph Jennings. 11 July 2017. *Malaysia To Mindanao: Where ISIS Is Finding A Toehold In Asia*. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/ralphjennings/2017/07/11/sulu-sea-to-sulawesi-these-are-the-5-big-hotspots-for-isis-in-asia/#d08b6ba4b237>

25 Francis Chan. 20 September 2017. *ISIS, Al-Qaeda drawn to crisis in Rakhine state*. Accessed through: <http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/isis-al-qaeda-drawn-to-crisis-in-rakhine-state>





Experts have noted that the crisis is being exploited by the ISIS propaganda machines to recruit more fighters into its fold and inflame militancy among hardliners in Indonesia and Malaysia. Echoing its strategy in Mindanao, ISIS has, in increasing frequency, claimed that it plans to establish a base in Bangladesh to launch revenge attacks on the Myanmar government over its treatment of the Muslim Rohingya.

## The ASEAN Response

In the face of these threats, it is imperative for ASEAN governments and civil society to confront the ISIS expansion and nip it in the bud before it engulfs the entire region. With ASEAN expanding its economic growth and moving towards regional integration, the stakes are much higher as VE threaten to reverse these gains.

Southeast Asia has emerged as a major economic player in the world with a huge market of US\$2.6 trillion and more than 622 million in population, making it the third largest economy in Asia and seventh in the world.<sup>26</sup>

Through its ASEAN Vision 2020, the region began the process of accelerating regional integration to spur economic growth, enhance trade development and allow freer movement of goods, services, skilled labor, and capital. With the region fostering stronger economic ties and less stringent border restrictions, apprehensions have been raised over an escalation of ISIS-style terrorist attacks that disrupt economic gains and exacerbate current ethnic and political insurgencies.

Thus, ASEAN would need to grapple with the paradoxical realities of the world economy and global terror. Greater economic freedom and mobility create new opportunities for the region as these also heighten security concerns for the population.

The good news is that ASEAN governments have responded to the ISIS threat to the region. They have begun strengthening regional counter-terrorism cooperation. For instance, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines have implemented joint air and sea patrols on the Sulu-Sulawesi Seas which is regarded as a terrorists' corridor. Many governments have aggressively taken action to track down and cut funding to local terrorist networks.

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26 ASEAN Economic Community, accessed through: <http://asean.org/asean-economic-community/>





The bad news is that defeating terrorism would require more than counter-terrorism initiatives. Some anti-terror approaches, like military action, have resulted in displacements and civilian deaths that could further radicalize populations. There have been no evidence that traditional counter-terror initiatives were able to address the underlying causes of terrorism. In fact, new terror groups have emerged as soon as the current ones were defeated.

Civil society leaders and scholars have long advocated for an approach to “win the hearts and minds” of people against radicalization and violent extremism. This approach focused on the process by which individuals were transformed by extremist narratives towards radical ideology, or worse, VE actions.

This was precisely the idea that underpinned the Conference. Organizers have stressed the need to move away from traditional strategies that focused too much resources and energies on law enforcement, surveillance, military action, wars, and other security-based approaches<sup>27</sup> by placing peace at the center of the discussion on how to counter and prevent VE. Thus the participants from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and the Philippines were convened to analyze the threat of VE and its drivers in Southeast Asia; discuss how to strengthen peace-building; and, share lessons from local programs that have achieved success in their respective communities.

Specifically, the Conference aimed to:

1. Encourage the development of appropriate policies and standards, and adoption of good policies for action plans at national and regional levels;
2. Prevent violent extremism in ASEAN member states by strengthening local actors, particularly the women and the youth;
3. Engage local communities as critical partners in rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives, and monitoring and peace-building efforts;
4. Address the specific societal dynamics and drivers of radicalization to violence, and explore approaches to counter ideology, messaging and recruitment methods availed by extremist group and their propagandists to attract new recruits and incite violence;

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27 International Peace Institute. October 2017. *Why Preventing Violent Extremism Needs Sustaining Peace*. International Peace Institute: Vienna, Austria.







5. Identify sustainable and proactive efforts for preventing support for VE in areas where there is an emerging threat; and
6. Promote dialogue and discourse among political leaders, government officials, security analysts, peace advocates, civil society, academe, religious leaders, business leaders, and media, with particular attention to women and youth. The discourse should include representatives of ASEAN member states and partners from Mindanao's conflict-affected communities.

## Peace and PVE

Some concepts, especially those in the social sciences, have invited endless debates. Scholars referred to these as the “essential contestability” of political concepts. Disagreements often arose over the proper interpretation of certain terms used in political discourse such as democracy, justice, human rights and freedom.

The same was true with regards to the concept of VE. The literature on the subject matter revealed the lack of consensus among scholars on the definitions of key terms.<sup>28</sup> Definitions of VE, radicalization, terrorism and countering/preventing VE were diverse and have often been disputed. On the other hand, this publication will not dwell into this debate on definitions.

Even the UN has steered clear of the definitional discussion when it released its Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism:

Definitions of “terrorism” and “violent extremism” are the prerogative of Member States and must be consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law. Just as the General Assembly has taken a practical approach to counterterrorism through the adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy, this Plan of Action pursues a practical approach to preventing violent extremism, without venturing to address questions of definition.<sup>29</sup>

28 Minerva Nasser-Eddine, Bridget Garnham, Katerina Agostino and Gilbert Caluya. March 2014. *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Literature Review*. Counter Terrorism and Security Technology Centre Defence Science and Technology Organisation: Australia

29 United Nations. 24 December 2017. Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism Report of the Secretary-General. UN, New York.





The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), for its part, defines VE as “advocating, engaging in, preparing, or otherwise supporting ideologically motivated or justified violence to further social, economic or political objectives.”<sup>30</sup>

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) also introduced the concept of “domestic violent extremism” which is defined as “individuals or groups attempting to advance social or political beliefs through force or violence and in violation of federal law.”<sup>31</sup>

Another problematic concept used in conjunction with VE is the term radicalization, often used to describe the process by which an individual adopts views that fundamentally departs from socially accepted values and mores, or, becomes a terrorist or a violent extremist. By implication, radicalization would be the starting point of the road towards VE.

Kumar Ramakrishna suggested that any discussion of VE should be predicated by a discussion on radicalization. He posited that “while violent extremism is an *outcome* or *end-state*, radicalization is best understood as the process leading to that outcome.”<sup>32</sup>

Most definitions of radicalization have been so broad to be susceptible to abuse by state forces. One man's radical may be another man's freedom fighter. In this instance, the disputes in definition have gone beyond academic approach or semantics. Imprecise definitions would have serious policy consequences. This has led many to criticize the government's anti-terrorism campaign as subterfuge for crippling opposition forces and civil society critical of government.

Countering/Preventing violent extremism (C/PVE), on the other hand, is founded on the belief that while military, intelligence, and law enforcement measures are essential in battling terrorism, it requires the “soft” measures that target the structural causes of violent extremism.

This is the core assumption of the Conference and this publication. Confronting conflicts and VE both require a comprehensive approach that is

30 United States Agency for International Development. September 2011. *The Development Response to Violent Extremism and Insurgency*. USAID Policy: Washington DC.

31 Federal Bureau of Investigation. January 2016. *Preventing Violent Extremism in Schools*. FBI: Washington.

32 Kumar Ramakrishna. 2013. *A Theoretical Framework for Understanding Radicalisation into Violent Extremism*. In SEARCCT's Selection of Articles, Vol 1/2013. Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.





founded on the need to address the drivers of conflict/VE. More often than not, the drivers of conflict—injustice, inequality, marginalization—are the same factors that make communities vulnerable to VE.

As Ms. Rasul-Bernardo has emphasized, preventing VE must be based on building and sustaining peace. Peace-building initiatives are inherently prevention-based, employ a “whole-of-society” approach, and focus on the drivers of conflicts: marginalization, oppression, poverty, injustice, and inequality.

This is the same philosophy behind the assertion of Philippine Interior and Local Government Undersecretary Catalino Cuy, when he discussed his department's strategy to counter VE through a multi-stakeholder view that includes government, civil society, academia, and non-state actors.

National Security Adviser Hermogenes Esperon, Jr., echoed this sentiment. The length of the Marawi Siege was not only due to the difficult terrain but more importantly, it was because of the government's insistence to protect civilians, mosques, and schools. He noted that, in the recovery phase, government and civil society need to continue its war for the hearts and minds of the Maranao. For Sec. Esperon, the government's objective is to win this war by promoting inclusivity, unity despite diversity, peace, and prosperity.

Dr. Rohan Gunaratna argued that as the terror alliance in the region has shifted from Al-Qaeda/Jemaah Islamiyah to ISIS-affiliated terror networks, resources need to be focused on 80% prevention and 20% rehabilitation in the fields of education, religion, and culture.







PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Education and the Academe







**A**s Zahra, a 13-year-old girl, prepared to go back to school, she recalled how ISIS took over their community in West Mosul, Iraq and forced them to leave their home and school. “ISIS made us leave school, going back is our revenge against them. I’m going to be a doctor,” she proclaimed.<sup>1</sup>

Zahra’s statement captured the duality of the role of education in preventing violent extremism (VE). On one hand, extremist groups directly attacked education institutions for the purpose of denying people, especially the youth, access to education; and on the other, they utilized education in their indoctrination and recruitment campaigns.

One of the most gruesome attacks on schools, for instance, happened in December 2014 when about seven armed fighters from the Pakistan Taliban entered the Army Public School in Peshawar and slaughtered 144 people, mostly children between the ages of 12 and 16.

On the other hand, experts unanimously ascertained the indispensability of education in preventing and countering VE. Instilling the values of peace, love, and tolerance, as well as highlighting the rule of law and human rights, were considered as essential functions of education, both formal and non-formal.

Academic institutions were likewise critical in providing meaningful and solid research studies which became the basis of national plans in preventing violent extremism and ensuring that policies are responsive to actual problems in the community.

There has been a strong impetus to capacitate educational institutions and actors as frontliners in the fight against violent extremism and to protect schools from becoming cradles of terror.

### **“Arming” the Young**

The centrality of education was hardly a novel idea. History has shown that education has long been a battleground for political, social, economic and cultural forces seeking to effect changes in society. Whether the objective is to foment revolutionary sentiments against the colonizers, agitating nationalist

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<sup>1</sup> Bethan McKernan. 12 May 2017. ‘School is our revenge on ISIS’: Children fight extremism with education in Iraq. The Independent: London. Accessed through: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/mosul-isis-battle-latest-children-refugees-displaced-fighting-education-school-idp-camps-unicef-a7733366.html>





ideas, or simply “manufacturing the needs” of a consumerist society, education has been seen as the most effective way to win the minds and hearts of people.

The school is widely viewed as one of the earliest and most important agents of socialization. Apart from the family, children would acquire the norms, values, and skills they need to function in society, from educational institutions. While it is true that socialization would continue throughout the life of an individual, the schools would serve as seedbed for the development of a person's moral lens.

For this reason, education has been given an important role in the global effort to prevent and counter violent extremism. The UN, in particular, argued that “education should include teaching respect for human rights and diversity, fostering critical thinking, promoting media and digital literacy, and developing the behavioral and socio-emotional skills that can contribute to peaceful coexistence and tolerance.”<sup>2</sup>

Moreover, the UN Security Council issued Resolutions 2178 and 2250 underscoring the need for “quality education for peace that equips youth with the ability to engage constructively in civic structures and inclusive political processes” and called on “all relevant actors to consider instituting mechanisms to promote a culture of peace, tolerance, intercultural and inter-religious dialogue that involve youth and discourage their participation in acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, and all forms of discrimination.”

The conference participants acknowledged the fact that it is imperative for schools to focus on peace education. The consensus among those in the workshop was that academic institutions, by their very mandate on instruction, research and extension services, play a key role in efforts towards the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and countering violent extremism (CVE). They noted that the education system must encourage and promote peace education, diversity and integration. In particular, they noted how quality education can play a critical role in helping young people distance themselves from extremism and resist the so-called ‘pull factors,’ that may drive them to recruitment. The workshop discussion also stressed the need to address youth and adult illiteracy.

A number of current initiatives were enumerated, including peace education in the development of curricula such as those implemented in the Mindanao State University (MSU) System and Notre Dame University, among

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General*. New York: United Nations.







others. Academic institutions also integrated peace education in primary, secondary, tertiary and graduate education. PCID developed a peace education manual developed from the Muslim perspective even as most peace education programs in the Philippines were crafted by Christian groups and universities. Increased partnerships with other institutions such as International Alert have been forged in order to further enhance peace education courses and even graduate programs. Academic institutions have extended their activities on PVE and CVE to other sectors of society, including the military, covering topics such as cultural sensitivity, gender, and human rights.

UNESCO explained why education should occupy a central role in any plan to prevent violent extremism: “The role of education is, therefore, not to intercept violent extremists or identify individuals who may potentially become violent extremists, but to create the conditions that build the defenses, within learners, against VE and strengthen their commitment to nonviolence and peace.”<sup>3</sup>

In other words, schools and universities were seen as critical in providing young people with the knowledge, values and dispositions to reject the propaganda of violent extremists allowing them to become resilient to hateful narratives and propaganda that legitimize the use of violence.<sup>4</sup>

Even when not specifically related to preventing VE, schools can create an inclusive, diverse, and peaceful learning environment in order to strengthen the sense of community and a culture of peace among pupils. This is crucial in responding to the extremists’ strategy of targeting young people with a troubled sense of belongingness and who feel that they are being excluded from their communities.

A learning environment supportive of peace would be one that rejects all forms of violence and counters the mindset dignifying hatred of others and glorifying the use of violence as a means to resolve problems.

As a consequence, learning institutions must adopt strict measures to prevent violence in the form of corporal and psychological punishment inflicted by teachers or other persons in authority, bullying, gang-related violence, sexual and gender-based violence, and violent initiation ceremonies especially those that have been adopted as traditions in higher education institutions.

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3 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. 2017. *Preventing violent extremism through education: A guide for Policy-makers*. UNESCO: Paris, France.

4 Ibid.





## Citizenship and Community

Simply telling young people about the evils of VE is not enough. What is needed is a holistic education model that lays emphasis on dialogue, fosters critical thinking skills, inculcates respect for diversity and gives the students the socio-emotional and behavioral skills that will help deconstruct the messaging used to promote violence.

Experts agree that one of the most effective strategies employed by violent extremists who recruit young people to their cause is by developing a narrative that encourages hatred of other people with different beliefs and ideals and justifying violent and evil acts in the name of religion. Students need to be able to challenge and reject these simplistic and flawed worldviews.

Logic, critical thinking, the capacity to express one's opinions freely and debate with others civilly, and, the ability to question and challenge ideas, are essential to the development of a well-educated person. These are the skills necessary in order to develop resilience among young people against the narratives of extremists.<sup>5</sup>

Several participants pointed out the need to strengthen the civic consciousness and responsibility of young people. Civic education emphasizes knowledge, skills and dispositions allowing citizens to participate in democratic processes. These include awareness and acceptance of the rule of law, democracy, human rights, and tolerance. These are the same values that would allow young people to become resilient against extremism. Civic responsibility and citizenship may also build a shared sense of culture within a society that consists of a diverse mix of ethnic, religious, and cultural backgrounds.<sup>6</sup>

The participants also agreed that building effective partnerships between the education sector and the greater community (including law enforcement agencies) may help to develop opportunities for students to engage in positive activities in their communities, and may create a sense of shared responsibility for their safety and development. Building effective partnerships was seen as important in developing resilience to the divisive narratives expounded by extremist groups.<sup>7</sup>

5 Naureen Chowdhury Fink, et al. 2013. *The Role of Education in Countering Violent Extremism*. Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation (CGCC) and Hedayah: New York City

6 Ibid.

7 Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation. December 2013. *Role of Education in Countering Violent Extremism*. New York.





Universities were urged to ensure what UNESCO referred to as “safe spaces for constructive dialogue” to help learners develop a personal understanding of complex issues and question their own assumptions and those of others as well as sharpening their ability to dialogue respectfully, anticipate responses, manage their emotions and challenge prejudice.<sup>8</sup>

In other words, it takes an entire community to raise children who are resilient to VE. This requires academic institutions to help in strengthening community relations in order to ensure a safe, collaborative, and constructive environment. When parents, teachers, students, community, church leaders, as well as local government and law enforcement officials, unite against terrorism, then PVE efforts are reinforced and sustained.

To many of the participants, academic institutions are perfectly positioned to foster community dialog and efforts to prevent VE. Institutions of learning could provide an independent “safe” space where community actors could voice their concerns, discuss pressing issues, and solve problems.

Dr. Jamhari Makruf,<sup>9</sup> asserted that academic institutions can contribute in PVE efforts by providing interventions, which may take the form of guidance counselors who can listen to narratives of the youth and engage to help them become well-adjusted adults. This is especially true in areas where there is a rise in VE incidences, or locations identified as most vulnerable to VE. In this sense, universities could also utilize their space after school hours to reach out to students, families, and communities through continuing education programs or activities, i.e., through the provision of informal literacy classes or vocational training.

An example of this is the Literacy for Peace and Development (LIPAD) Project by the Magbassa Kita Foundation, Incorporated (MKFI). With support from USAID for three years, the MKFI, under the leadership of former Senator Santanina Rasul, was able to help 63,750 adults attain literacy, more than 80% of whom were Moro women.

In this sense, universities and other academic institutions, in conjunction with local governments and civil society organizations, need to tailor-fit their extension services to include guidance counseling programs for its students and programs that promote social enterprise and sustain community initiatives

8 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. 2017. *Preventing violent extremism through education: A guide for policy-makers*. UNESCO: Paris, France.

9 Dr. Makruf is an Advisor at Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat (PPIM) in Indonesia.





especially in communities that are vulnerable to VE. In this manner, the youth are given a platform where they can voice out their concerns and their inquiries while being given a measure of guidance.

Educational institutions can develop programs that will provide support to children, youth and adults who have suffered trauma and are coping with the impact of violence in and around their communities. Such approaches have been demonstrated to have both healing and prevention effects given that unaddressed trauma can contribute to vulnerability to radicalization whether for seeking vengeance, asserting lost personal power, or enabling protection of self and family. Additionally, exposure to sustained or extreme violence also results in desensitization to violence and thus normalizes it as a means for solving problems.<sup>10</sup>

### The Role of Academic Research

Both plenary speakers and workshop participants were in agreement that at present, there is no adequate evidence to generate a shared analysis or understanding of VE and that there are numerous gaps in the academic literature that needs to be filled to enable a deeper understanding of causes and costs of VE.

There is also no evidence-based information that can be disseminated to raise awareness and knowledge about situations of VE, which presents a challenge to the academe. The lack of evidence-based information has stunted discourse on VE and has posed challenges in creating policies to address the problems of VE.

As Dr. Francisco Lara, Jr.<sup>11</sup> pointed out, a lot is still unknown about VE. Although a lot of attention has been given to the subject lately, serious academic studies have only just begun. He added that national plans to prevent and counter VE should be based on solid qualitative and quantitative research.

In recent years, scholars have indeed produced a decent amount of literature on the subject of VE. However, the “majority of the literature in the

10 Sanam Naraghi Anderlini. 2017. *Education, Identity and Rising Extremism from Preventing Violent Extremism to Promoting Peace, Resilience, Equal Rights and Pluralism (PREP)*. International Civil Society action Network: Washington DC.

11 Mr. Lara is the Philippine Country Manager of International Alert.





field comprises commentary and critique and lacks an empirical research basis.”

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While echoing the call for more quantitative data, Atty. Benedicto Bacani of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), argued for a more interdisciplinary approach to PVE research. He stressed the importance of qualitative research given the nature of the subject matter. He further noted that psychology, anthropology, economics, history, political science, and sociology, among others, can provide different perspectives that can help in developing a deeper understanding of VE.

While case studies are particularly useful in contextualizing the subject of VE and in developing approaches to CVE in terms of history, politics, culture and economics, comparative studies on countries vulnerable to VE and those resilient to it can deepen knowledge on factors that enable VE in such areas.

For instance, most of the analysis regarding VE focused on the “push and pull” factors that led to radicalization. Less attention was given to the understanding of the factors and initiatives that prevent and foster resilience against the lure of extremist rhetoric. Even less were devoted to “understand the common ingredients present at the societal, communal or individual level that not only reject intolerant extremist ideologies and are repulsed by violence, but also embrace and celebrate pluralism, diversity and acceptance of “the other.”<sup>13</sup>

The academic community should therefore focus also on other specific areas of research. One particular area noted was the relationship between the dynamics of VE and peace negotiations. In particular, the workshop participants mentioned the peace process between government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). One important question to ask is whether the absence of a politically-negotiated peace in the region would make Mindanao more vulnerable to VE. Conversely, will peace and development make VE irrelevant and make recruitment efforts of violent extremists futile?

12 Minerva Nasser-Eddine, et al. 2011. *Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Literature Review*. Counter Terrorism and Security Technology Centre Defence Science and Technology Organisation: Australia

13 Sanam Naraghi Anderlini. 2017. *Education, Identity and Rising Extremism from Preventing Violent Extremism to Promoting Peace, Resilience, Equal Rights and Pluralism (PREP)*. International Civil Society action Network: Washington DC.





MILF Chairman Murad Ebrahim echoed this when he said that ISIS has chosen Mindanao island as a “strategic ground” for recruiting fighters after being routed in its Middle Eastern strongholds last year. Murad proclaimed that “the fight against violent extremism is real.”

He explained that the extremists did not actually support a “national liberation agenda” but was exploiting the frustration and resentment of the Moro people, especially the young to lure them into extremism. “The reality now is that,” Murad lamented, “they are using the possible failure of the peace process to recruit more people.”<sup>14</sup>

Dr. Ichsan Malik<sup>15</sup> urged academic researches to likewise focus on the creation of “peaceful narratives” and “narratives of diversity” and to effectively communicate these positive stories in schools, traditional media and in social media. He stressed that it is the duty of scholars and academics to provide counter-narratives and correct interpretations of religious texts or other sources that extremist movements use to erode empathy, heighten anger and mistrust, and ultimately justify the use of violence.

Education, he claimed, is a means of conveying positive values to build resilience against the bigotry that is inherent in extremist ideologies and foster an appreciation for pluralism and shared common humanity across cultural, religious or political differences.

Dr. Makruf echoed this perspective when he presented the Program on Islamic Education, which includes the creation of networks between civil society organizations (CSOs) and universities and various researches that have been published to raise awareness on VE. He recounted that the program was developed due to the misappropriations and misinterpretations of Islamic concepts and ideologies by extremist groups. Engagements with former terrorists on what turned them radical and how they became radical were pursued in order to know if there was anything on the histories and texts on Islam that may have been the source of hatred. In relation to this, studies were made on the history and texts used in Islamic education, which included the research on Islamic literatures used in schools and universities. According to Dr. Makruf, it is the tendency of individuals to have a literal understanding of religious doctrines that produces

14 Felipe Villamor and Jeoffrey Maitem. 20 February 2018. *Islamic State Targets Southern Philippines as ‘Strategic Ground’*: MILF Chief. Benar News. Accessed through: <https://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/milf-leader-02202018124738.html>

15 Dr. Malik is a Conflict Resolution Facilitator at the Samdhana Institute in Indonesia.





extremist ideas. The program was precisely developed to counter this, to promote moderation, peace, and tolerance through Islamic education.

Researches and subsequent publication of the results have likewise been made. Among such studies are the national survey on tolerance on religious cases, youth perceptions on behavioral radicalism, database on intolerance in Indonesia, research on social media and radicalism, and rehabilitation and engagement of former terrorists.

Networks among CSOs, NGOs and research centers in universities were established and maintained for the purpose of sharing ideas, experiences, information and resources and prevent redundancies in research efforts towards PVE and CVE. Dr. Makruf has stated that by creating this network, programs created and developed were more aligned and suitable to the needs of the community as local CSOs and NGOs are more attuned to these factors than the academe.

Finally, the workshop participants recommended that universities and research institutions should increase their engagement with the local communities, CSOs, NGOs, the government as well as security officials and law enforcement agencies to encourage discourse on the issues of VE as well as for the academe to align its objectives with other sectors in order to ensure that research undertaken by the academe can be put to concrete use.

This is particularly important in initiatives that involve a multi-sector approach. It is imperative for everyone involved in PVE efforts to talk to each other as they are dealing with the same phenomenon. This dialog will bridge this “research-practice gap.”

This was the same point raised by Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus G. Dureza who urged the conference participants to learn from experiences that has been shared especially by the people from conflict zones. He also urged the conference organizers and participants to allow these experiences to become inputs in the development of national policies as well as ASEAN's plan to counter violent extremism.

Developing this “cross-fertilization” of knowledge between the intelligence community, academic disciplines, and professionals in the field ensures the relevance of research and the translation of research findings into practice as well as in guaranteeing that policies are based on sound academic research.







*Academia Thought Leaders:*

*Dr. Francisco Lara, Jr., Dr. Ichsan Malik, Dr. Jamhari Makruf*

*Facilitators:*

*Atty. Benedicto Bacani, Dr. Carolyn Sobritchea*







PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Why PVE is the Business of Business







They were previously rebels instigating a revolution against what they perceived to be injustices to their homeland. Today, some coffee shops in Australia or a family in the United States are brewing coffee beans produced by these former insurgents.

The People's Alliance for Progress Multipurpose Cooperative (PAPMC) is an agrarian reform community established in 2008 in Panamao, Sulu. Sulu is located at the southernmost part of the Philippines, lying between the Sulu Sea on the north and the Celebes Sea on the south and is one of the provinces comprising the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The growing coffee industry in Sulu has provided an opportunity for residents to be productive and to keep them away from the influence of the terror group operating in the island province.

Ms. Maria Aurora Geotina Garcia<sup>1</sup> shared their story to prove that business has an integral role in the fight against violent extremism (VE) and in attaining peace and development in conflict-affected areas like the ARMM.

PAPMC has around 2,000 members with over 300 families actively involved in coffee production. It started in four municipalities of Panamao, Patikul, Talipao, and Panglima Estino which can be translated to a total of 1,024 hectares of coffee plantation. Most of the members are former rebels who have laid down their arms in favor of a peaceful life.

This was the same principle that guided Mr. John Paul C. Perrine and his company, the Unifrutti Group of Companies. Explaining how he was able to establish a thriving business in the middle of a conflict area, Mr. Perrine said that: "It is not difficult to secure your business if you secure it with the support of the community."

Mr. Perrine narrated how Unifrutti has had no interruptions in operations since they started. He claimed that no lives nor properties were lost due to conflict since the company always communicated with the community, including the rebels. "We are walking together in the same path. When the

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<sup>1</sup> Ms. Garcia is the Board Adviser of the Women's Business Council-Philippines and the Chairperson of the Philippine Women's Economic Network.





profits come and the business becomes sustainable, that will be a blessing for us and your community.” This explains why many of the people who work in their plantations are former members of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the two most significant rebel groups in Muslim Mindanao.

He stressed that businesses should be beneficial to the communities where they operate in. Citing an example, Perrine narrated: “when you are located near a river and the children there get rashes because of the chemicals you pour into the water, you cannot just say to the people that you are in compliance with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) manual. The people will view your business as a threat and you will have a big problem with the community.” Similarly, businesses in conflict areas should be aware of the sentiments of the people in the community that they operate in.

These two stories and many others demonstrate the indispensable role of the private sector in preventing violent extremism.

## **Violent Extremism and the Private Sector**

Private businesses are essentially risk averse and wary about operating in an area with a lot of security risks. This creates a vicious cycle because conflict areas remain poor and therefore vulnerable to VE unless some form of development take place in their area.

Corporations traditionally stay away from endeavors that they deem as “too politically-sensitive.” Even activities under the so-called corporate social responsibility (CSR) focus on “safe” subject matters like scholarships, donations during calamities, building of schools, or feeding programs. Seldom will companies immerse itself in issues that are deemed controversial and will put the organization in the “political limelight.”

But the fact remains that businesses cannot escape the issue of preventing VE. Terrorism is not risk averse to attacking business establishments. Pranoti Surve<sup>2</sup> pointed out that the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York changed the security landscape for businesses. Establishments used to preoccupy themselves with visitor management and petty crimes but the 9/11 attack changed all of that. Today, many have elaborate security plans that include

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2 Ms. Surve serves as the Global Intelligence Operations Manager of Bank of America-Merrill Lynch in Singapore.





a risk analysis section and intelligence teams dealing with protecting their hard assets (buildings, etc.) and their soft assets (data, credit card files, etc.).

The more complicated security situation today requires companies to coordinate with other multinational organizations, non-government organizations, as well as public and private sector organizations in enriching their data, not just in their local areas but also internationally.

Businesses know that terrorists are not particularly cautious about targets and collateral damages. That is why in many cases, VE impacts the businesses' bottom line. When terror strikes, it negatively affects businesses in terms of disrupting the supply chain, threatening employees and their productivity as well as scaring customers and investors alike. In 2015, estimates of the economic costs of terrorism reached \$89.6 billion.<sup>3</sup>

The impact of a bomb explosion goes beyond the radius of the physical damage it creates. Its impact can be felt in terms of the insecurities it leaves behind long after the attacks. VE lowers productivity, stifles human potential, reduces consumer confidence, increases the price of risk, and destroys infrastructure. The multiplier effects are likewise staggering. For instance, after the Dhaka attacks in Bangladesh, Mitsubishi and Toyota withdrew their essential staff and considered scaling back their operations in the area. A tenth of American travelers cancelled their trips due to the attacks in Egypt, France, Lebanon, and Mali, amounting to more than \$7.8 billion in travel spending. After the airport bombing in Brussels, airlines, hotel chains, and travel websites experienced drops in their stock prices.<sup>4</sup>

The private sector is naturally suited to take on the challenge of preventing VE. One obvious reason is that businesses have access to the local communities they serve. They have a unique perspective in understanding what is happening at the grassroots level. The private sector is also known for its efficiency and flexibility compared to the bureaucratic and cumbersome procedures that typically characterize government agencies.<sup>5</sup>

3 Eric Rosand and Alistair Millar. 31 January 2017. *How the private sector can be harnessed to stop violent extremism*. The Brookings Institution. Accessed through: (<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2017/01/31/how-the-private-sector-can-be-harnessed-to-stop-violent-extremism/>)

4 Espen Barth Eide. 19 Feb 2015. How companies can help defuse violent extremism. World Economic Forum (<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/02/how-companies-can-help-defuse-violent-extremism/>)

5 Amy E. Cunningham and Khalid Koser. 2016. *Why Preventing Violent Extremism is the Private Sector's Business*. In 2016 Global Terrorism Index Report.





But how can the private sector become involved in the issue of preventing VE which has been dominated by the government, security and civil society organizations? How can the resources that businesses offer be utilized to address one of the most critical menace facing humanity, which the UN declares as an evil that “undermines peace and security, human rights and sustainable development.”

Mr. Laurence Lien<sup>6</sup> related how his group, the Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC), contributed in addressing the problem of VE. They focused on three things: (1) youth leadership and empowerment; (2) improvement of school models; and (3) spreading the models and creating awareness to counter intolerance. He emphasized the need for the business sector to create a roadmap in order to move towards peace and development.

### **Jobs and Economic Opportunities**

All the workshop participants agree that the private sector can be tapped to address one of the underlying causes of VE in particular, and conflict in general. Poverty and lack of economic opportunities have been identified as critical drivers of VE. The participants agreed that the economic aspect of creating secure and just societies should not be underestimated and naturally the role of the private sector is very critical in this discussion. Companies are in a unique position to partner with governments and the civil society in a long-term effort to address the conditions that underlie the spread of extremist ideologies and recruitment. A great number of young people around the world are out of jobs and those that do have jobs are stuck in low income jobs. Companies, when they expand to conflict areas and places vulnerable to VE, can provide decent employment opportunities for these young people.

Livelihood opportunities, employment, education and training are activities that can provide vulnerable youth with another option apart from taking up arms or engaging online with a fringe terror group.

The private sector needs to develop initiatives like scholarships, trainings, and apprenticeship programs that would allow them to establish relationships and gain the trust of the people in the area that they operate in. This can be a part of a bigger PVE plan for the community.

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<sup>6</sup> Mr. Lien is co-founder and CEO of the Asia Philanthropy Circle Community Foundation of Singapore.





Opportunities like these would give young people the option to reject the extremists' narrative of despair and violence in favor of one that is anchored on their hopes and dreams and the possibilities of progress and peace.

Participants noted that it is crucial for businesses to embark on these programs with the cooperation of the stakeholders in the community. They should work hand-in-hand with local authorities, community leaders, grassroots organizations, NGOs and law enforcement and security officials. This way, PVE efforts are comprehensive and unified, therefore ensuring better chances of success.

## Entrepreneurship

The difference between a business person and an entrepreneur is that the former is someone who owns and runs an enterprise for profit while the latter innovates and creates solutions to problems. The profit component is also there of course, but entrepreneurship has long been known for its problem-solving ability. Young entrepreneurs can both generate prosperity on their own and imagine new solutions to a range of problems affecting nations, from public health to climate change — problems which, when left unsolved, often become the root causes of conflict and make communities vulnerable to VE<sup>7</sup>

It is for this reason that entrepreneurship has been identified by the workshop participants as an essential, although often overlooked, factor in addressing the problem of VE.

This is fitting because the world campaign against VE lies in an innovative mindset on how extremism can be defeated—not just with military might or more advanced and smarter bombs, but by devising new narratives that young people can hang on to.

The optimism, confidence, hope, and promise of an entrepreneurial spirit can easily offset the attempts of extremists to capitalize on the poverty and hopelessness that some young people experience. By training young people towards entrepreneurship, society does not only counter the extremist narrative but also provide the youth with the capacity to build a brighter future for themselves, their family, their country and the global community.

7 E.B. Boyd. 26 June 2016. Can Entrepreneurship Fight Violent Extremism? Fast Company. Accessed through: <https://www.fastcompany.com/3061294/can-entrepreneurship-fight-violent-extremism>





Participants enjoined both the government and the private sector to provide for an environment where entrepreneurship will thrive among young people. This means stronger entrepreneurship content in the school curriculum as well as more entrepreneurship programs and apprenticeship initiatives for young people especially those in conflict areas and vulnerable to VE.

As former US President Barack Obama stressed in his 2014 speech before the UN General Assembly: “(we need to) expand our programs to support entrepreneurship, civil society, education and youth—because, ultimately, these investments are the best antidote to violence.”<sup>8</sup>

### Involvement in Development

Traditionally, the relationship between the development-oriented civil society groups and the business sector is one based on suspicion. The former views the latter as solely obsessed with profits and sit opposite them on issues like the environment, corruption, human rights, and the like. But the complexities of the global problems that we face today and the increasing recognition of the role that the private sector plays in dealing with them has ushered in more possibilities for a tripartite development approach.

The workshop participants urged the government to bring businesses to the table in terms of development approaches and solutions. Despite certain differences, the government, civil society and the private sector have more common interests in defeating extremism and in fostering development, in general. They stressed that dialogue and trust between the private sector, governments, and civil society is crucial if a shared understanding is to be built in relation to preventing VE.

For instance, a tripartite partnership that is characterized by trust and a common vision towards peace and development could allow the private sector to realize that it would be better to direct most of their corporate social responsibility projects towards the marginalized communities targeted by terrorist recruiters. While there is certainly nothing wrong with CSR activities that are limited to scholarships and donations during calamities, a more sustained, development-centered CSR is more beneficial to communities and the country as a whole. They can also increase their participation in community-led programs,

8 Remarks by President Obama in Address to the United Nations General Assembly. Retrieved from <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/09/24/remarks-president-obama-address-united-nations-general-assembly>







training, mentoring, or branding expertise to grassroots organizations in at-risk communities that are implementing PVE programs. By doing these, they can serve as agents of positive change in their community.

Some participants also raised the need for the private sector to stand with the government and the civil society in fighting corruption, injustice, inequity and other factors that add fuel to the fires of VE. Several studies have noted that while corruption efforts are mostly focused on the government, there is also a private sector face to it. Businesses can help anti-corruption efforts and implementing policies for transparency, accountability and integrity within their own ranks. The cooperation of the business sector is also essential in tackling the illicit cash flows and money laundering that finance extremist groups.

Another important reason to engage the private sector is that they are sometimes the cause of conflict or at the very least, their actions tend to exacerbate the situation in communities. For example, the risk of generating or exacerbating conflict over the extraction of natural resources is well-documented, especially where extractive industries lack transparency, are not adequately held to account, ignore local communities, fail to share benefits appropriately, mismanage funds, or excessively impact local economies, society, and environments. In the Philippines, the issue on mining is very “explosive” especially with regard to the communities affected and the progressive sectors within the Catholic church.

In summary, development organizations should refrain from asking the private sector to simply finance their ideas. Instead, emphasis should be placed on mutually beneficial collaborations that will result in long-term partnerships such as ones that capitalize on the expertise and offerings of that individual company.

## Online Battle

Another fertile field for collaboration with companies is with respect to technology. Extremist recruiters and propaganda experts have mastered the use of technology—specifically social media—to radicalize people online. ISIS, in particular, has mobilized armies of online followers to engage audiences in ways that take advantage of the decentralized and open nature of the Internet, leveraging online tools such as Twitter, Facebook, Telegram, Instagram, and other online communication tools.





As global connectivity surged, terrorist and violent extremist groups have become more sophisticated in their use of information and communication technologies (ICT) to radicalize and recruit terrorist fighters and supporters, spread propaganda, transfer knowledge, money or generate funds in support of their ideas and operations. These developments have important implications for the private sector, in particular those technologies and social media companies whose products and services are used by millions, if not billions of people across the globe.

The participants urged technology companies like Google, Apple and others to unite and create mechanisms to prevent the spread of extremist ideology online. They said that while the Internet has been a blessing in terms of making communication easier, it has also become a potent tool in radicalizing young people.

In this sense, several technological companies have actually started to work together for this purpose. Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft, and YouTube formed the so-called Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, which aims to bring the four web giants together to swap data and technology and to develop a set of best practices for countering extremism on their platforms. The group also intends to help smaller technological businesses develop their own tools to fight extremism. Additionally, Twitter and Facebook have recently introduced mechanisms to thwart the extremists who manipulate their online tools and algorithms to serve their pernicious ends.<sup>9</sup>

In the end, the participants agreed that a “whole-of-society” approach requires PVE advocates to reach out to all sectors, in this case businesses, which by their very nature, have the capacity to contribute to ensure that the global menace of terrorism and VE are defeated.

9 ICT for Peace Foundation and Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. 2016. *Private Sector Engagement in Responding to the Use of the Internet and ICT for Terrorist Purposes Strengthening Dialogue and Building Trust*. New York.





*Business Thought Leaders:*

*Ms. Maria Aurora Geotina-Garcia, Mr. John Perrine, Mr. Danny Chan, Ms. Pranoti Surve*

*Facilitators:*

*Atty. Ceferino Benedicto, Jr., Dr. Federico Macaranas*





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Politics and Governance







When it launched its first Strategy on Counter-Terrorism in November 2005, the European Union (EU) noted that individuals have become more vulnerable to radicalization in societies with “poor or autocratic governance,” a modernization process that displaces certain segments of the population which, in turn, leads to “lack of political or economic prospects and of educational opportunities.”<sup>1</sup>

Ten years later, the United Nations (UN) reiterated the same sentiment when it argued that the member states that are unable to eradicate poverty by generating sustainable economic growth and producing jobs especially for the youth, to stamp out corruption and promote human rights and equality among its diverse population “are more prone to violent extremism and tend to witness a greater number of incidents linked to violent extremism.”

More specifically, the UN stressed:

Violent extremism tends to thrive in an environment characterized by poor governance, democracy deficits, corruption and a culture of impunity for unlawful behaviour engaged in by the State or its agents. When poor governance is combined with repressive policies and practices which violate human rights and the rule of law, the potency of the lure of violent extremism tends to be heightened.<sup>2</sup>

The EU and the UN both agreed that fighting the ever-growing threat of violent extremism (VE) requires State action beyond counter-terrorism security measures. Politics, or more specifically, good governance is at the crux of any initiative to achieve peace and prevent VE.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) also recognized this in their “Manila Declarations to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism,” a document released on September 20, 2017. It called for the development of an “integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing the

1 European Union. 30 November 2005. *The European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy*. EU: Brussels.

2 United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General*. New York: United Nations.





threats of the rise of radicalization and VE by promoting, among others, dialogue and conflict prevention, strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law, and providing education, skills development, and employment facilitation.

### **Divisive Politics, Poor Governance**

When the political system can no longer provide a decent quality of life, security, human rights, and freedom to its people, dissatisfaction and disillusionment will arise. When governments are perceived—whether real or imagined—as weak, inefficient, corrupt and oppressive, it creates a lacuna that can easily be exploited by radical elements of society. A participant expressed this thought succinctly: “when people do not feel the presence of government in the area, the recruitment of violent extremism is very much alive.”

In a world where many citizens remain distrustful of politics and suspicious of the government, the legitimacy of states can easily be challenged by violent extremist groups that can easily create a revolutionary narrative to justify violence in overturning the existing political and social system.

This was also the theme of the discussion of the conference workshop on the role of politics in preventing VE. The participants noted that Southeast Asia has had its share of political violence from electoral contests to secessionist movements. Part of the violence came from divisive politics and poor governance.

The consensus was that peace cannot be achieved through military solution alone. Ending conflict and stamping out VE require a “whole-of-society” approach. Efforts must be made to improve how the government plays a role in providing services and highlighting the importance of education particularly on the historical injustices in the communities because how people feel (about their status, how they are treated, etc.) and how they are raised are factors of their vulnerability to recruitment by extremist groups. It was also raised that lack of jobs and opportunities for progress “tend to create idle minds among the people making them more vulnerable.”

This was the point raised by former Philippine Senator Rodolfo Biazon who recounted his experience in the military in 1971 when he was tasked to handle a conflict between a Christian group called *Ilaga*<sup>3</sup> and a Muslim group called

3 *Ilaga* is a Christian Militia in the Philippines that operated during the 1970s in Southern Mindanao that fought against Muslims.







Barracudas. He recalled that this problem was not an issue between religion but primarily a political and economic problem stemming from land disputes between the Christians from Luzon who were transferred to Mindanao and the natives of the island. This, he said, was a result of poor government policy.

The Office of the Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Undersecretary Nabil Tan also noted how historical injustices, poverty and underdevelopment, government neglect, human rights violations, and economic displacements created and exacerbated the conflict in Muslim Mindanao. He added that even the Communist insurgency continues to persist because its promise of armed struggle as a means of liberation still resonates with some Filipinos.

The workshop discussion also revolved around political solutions to the problem of conflict and VE. Some participants, for instance, stressed that the Marawi siege is not simply a failure of intelligence but also a failure of governance. The siege of Marawi City by a local terror group is rooted in the socio-political conditions that make conflict intractable.

Ms. Chalida Tajaroensuk<sup>4</sup> from Thailand agreed and said that the conflict in southern Thailand is similar in its political, social, justice and economic components. In Thailand, the government employed military solution for years in trying to solve the problem but failed to target the root cause of the problem of the country. Military solution is not the way, she explained. What government needs to do instead is to ensure that the marginalized sectors of society—especially minorities—also experience the benefits of democracy, social justice, and equality.

The participants also pointed out that the government's response to conflict situations such as the Marawi crisis tends to exacerbate the situation and play into the hands of terrorist recruiters. As one participant puts it: "even when you kill a number of terrorists by bombing them, how many more extremists will be born from innocent victims who suffer as collateral damage?"

The UN recognized this and advised its member-states that in responding to extremism, they should "recognize that violent extremists aim at provoking States into overreacting, and then exploit ill-conceived government action for their own propaganda ends."<sup>5</sup>

4 Ms. Tajaroensuk is the Executive Director of the People's Empowerment Foundation (PEF).

5 United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General*. New York: United Nations.





## Democratic Space for Civil Society

One of the areas that the political system can improve upon is ensuring more democratic space for all peoples, especially minorities and marginalized groups. When there is political exclusion rather than inclusion, minorities feel that they cannot freely express and practice their religion and culture, and participation in civic space is limited, the idea of armed struggle, or worse, VE, then become attractive to some people.

These are perceptions of disempowerment perpetuated over extended periods of time that “can drive some or all of their members towards violent extremism.”<sup>6</sup>

During the workshops, an extended discussion on the idea of a limited civic space occurred. A participant from Cambodia shared how the Cambodian government restricts democratic space by shutting down civil society organizations (CSOs) that it deemed as “uncooperative.” Restrictions were also placed on the member of the press that are regarded as too critical of government policies. When opportunities to seek redress for grievances are shut down, it can drive people to more extreme forms of expression.

Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan,<sup>7</sup> citing his own experiences in local governance, stressed the importance of working with civil society. He added that CSOs can be very effective partners in the communication and propagation of positive values and ideology to help counter extremism. They can also fill in the “gaps of governance” by providing the needs of the people when the government is unable to do so. Finally, governments can learn many things from CSOs in terms of creating and advocating for a vision that the people can all support.

Civil society represents a space where people can freely express their views, thereby enhancing constructive engagement between the government and the people. The absence of this avenue for sharing their views may lead to frustration and dissent, or worse, to taking up arms against authorities.

CSOs have an excellent understanding of the local context and culture. Hence they can easily identify specific drivers of VE in their communities. As such, they are often the first to witness emerging cases of radicalization and VE.

6 United Nations Development Programme. 2016. *Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance and Respect for Diversity: A development response to addressing radicalization and violent extremism*. UNDP: New York, NY

7 Mr. Ampatuan is the Mayor of the town of Rajah Buayan in Maguindanao.





For these reasons, the conference participants urged government support for CSOs in their communities and resist restricting their participation in the democratic processes. They also asked government entities to ensure that CSO participation is present in all government programs and policies. This suggestion also means ensuring that all CSOs—especially those representing the youth, women, indigenous peoples—are involved in the entire process of developing PVE action plans and development strategies.

The political sector participants also suggested that a national action plan be developed to prevent VE. Following the UN Plan of Action, the participants urged the government to come up with a national plan that is “multidisciplinary, with inputs from a wide range of government actors, such as law enforcement, social service providers and ministries of education, youth and religious affairs, as well as non-governmental actors, including youth, families, women, religious, cultural, and educational leaders, civil society organizations, the media, and the private sector.”

The participants pointed out that the development of the National Action Plan for Preventing Violent Extremism should be the showcase of political inclusion and democracy. Any successful national action plan must be developed from the ground up instead of the usual top to bottom approach. Local communities must also have some inputs in the strategies based on specific contexts and needs as there is no one-size-fits-all grand design to counter extremism. More importantly, the national action plan should not be just limited to security or terrorism experts.

The participants likewise urged the government to develop a “whole-of-society” approach to address governance and development issues. They stressed the fact that ISIS and other terror groups tend to exploit grievances of citizens, especially minorities and marginalized groups in order to make effective recruitment initiatives. When governments use a heavy handed, militarized approach, the grievances tend to deepen, thereby increasing the possibility of VE.

### Local Governance

Respecting human rights, championing the autonomy of minority groups, creating a free, democratic space, and more participatory arenas for women and the youth were cited by participants as effective, long-term solutions to the problem of growing violent extremism in the region.





The discussion also delved into the role of local governments. The participants agreed that local governance should be capacitated in order to buttress the fight against extremism. Local governments are at the frontlines of politics and governance. While the relationship between the people and national government is mediated by the media, the link between the governed and local authorities are direct, even face-to-face.

Quite a few participants argued for federalism in the Philippines in order to strengthen the capacity of local governments to effectively meet local needs and aspirations. Improving the quality of services and of engagement between authorities and people enhances public trust and state legitimacy that are the foundations of just and peaceful societies. By grounding development choices in the needs of the people—particularly the poor, the marginalized and traditionally-excluded groups—and fostering transparency, accountability, participation, and ownership, local governments become forefront players in combating exclusion and reverse long-held perceptions of economic and social injustice.<sup>8</sup>

Specifically, the workshop made the following recommendations:

1. Make democracy work especially in conflict areas;
2. Reform the political system to eliminate corruption, patronage and elitism;
3. Ensure that the rights of everyone, especially minorities are respected;
4. Ensure that governance is participatory, in particular, allowing more democratic space for civil society; and
5. Avoid all-out wars and purely military approach in solving conflict problems.

The participants concluded that a political system that is best equipped to make the voices of extremism irrelevant is one that is inclusive; provides all people, especially the minorities, with democratic space to participate in; accommodates differences in political beliefs as well as redress of grievance; and practices good governance that delivers equitable development, sustained peace, human rights, and justice to the people.

8 United Nations Development Programme. 2016. *Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance and Respect for Diversity: A development response to addressing radicalization and violent extremism*. UNDP: New York, NY





*Political Thought Leaders:*  
Governor Jesus Crispin Remulla, Hon. Rodolfo C. Biazon, Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan

*Facilitators:*  
Ms. Karen Tañada, Dr. Nathan Gilbert Quimpo





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Engaging Religion and the Religious











Religion has become a critical part of the discussion on violent extremism (VE). Some people blame religion as the sole cause of terrorism globally. In some instances, people blame a particular religion for the upsurge in terror attacks. In the US, certain partisan sectors have demanded the use of the term “radical Islamic terrorism” instead of the more politically-correct and much-less specific term “violent extremism.”

Fortunately, many people have also realized that while religion might be one of the causes of VE, it also plays a critical part in any successful plan to prevent VE. More importantly, tagging one religion is downright inaccurate and does not help the effort to put a united front against terrorism.

The word religion comes from a Latin word which means “to tie or bind together.” Sociologically, religion has the ability to be at the center of community life by uniting the faithful. Members of the same religion embrace the same belief system, participate communally in religious rituals and ceremonies and share a value system that appropriates right and wrong. Individually, religion provides people with meaning in life, answering the eternal philosophical question, “Why am I here?” as well as finding the purpose of individual existence.

For these reasons, the majority of the world population adhere to some form of religious belief system. According to a 2015 Pew Research Center Study, only 16% of the world population are “unaffiliated” to any religion. This means that more than 6.1 billion people consider themselves as members of religious organizations. Christians (31%) and Muslims (24%) are the two largest religious groups.

Similarly, religion has also become a target of violent extremists. Extremists take advantage of young people who are disaffected or are undergoing a crisis in their identities (national, religious, cultural) and hijack their religious thinking to provide them with a sense of belonging which is anchored on the message of violence and hatred of others.

By misappropriating religious meanings and exploiting personal or social hardships, terrorists offer a narrative that legitimizes killings not just of a group of people perceived to be the source of oppression but even of innocent civilians. By manipulating religious teachings, extremists can characterize fighting for its cause or even the sacrifice of one's life as the higher purpose or reason for one's existential existence.





## It is not about Religion

The literature on preventing VE has debunked the claims that religion is the root cause of extremism. While religion is one of the factors—together with a host of other causes like poverty, injustice, maltreatment, inequity—most studies argue that it is difficult to pin down precisely its role and function in fostering VE. In fact, some studies suggest the exact opposite: that a strong grounding in religion can actually reduce the likelihood of people accepting the narrative of violent extremist groups.<sup>1</sup> For instance, a US study found that of the 188 cases of Muslim Americans who have been connected to terrorism activities, none were raised with “traditional, intensive religious training.” Instead, they “adopted fundamentalist views as they radicalized.”<sup>2</sup> Instead of putting the blame squarely on religion, the most effective way is to engage the religious sector in a multicultural approach to combat VE.

This was the same conclusion made by Mr. Shafqat Mehmood<sup>3</sup> who shared the experiences of 15 extremists who returned home from fighting with ISIS and who wanted a reformed life. He said that based on his conversations with them, he found out that about 80% did not know anything about Islam. He concluded that “they were radicalized, and then they became extremists.” A good number of them complained about lack of parental attention, thus they drifted towards anyone who gave them at least a little love, a little compassion, and attention.

This was reinforced by Archbishop Antonio Ledesma<sup>4</sup> who proclaimed that “all religions are religions of peace.” Using the Marawi siege and the Mindanao conflict as examples, he argued that it has never been a religious conflict between Christians and Muslims. While some sectors might portray religion as a source of conflict, it is principally a headspring of peace.

In fact, Archbishop Ledesma noted that despite the violence surrounding the Marawi siege, Christians and Muslims have demonstrated love and caring for others regardless of creed. Religious diversity did not hinder people from extending help to those who need it. They have been helping each other out during the conflict. Christian families gave food and shelter to the affected

- 1 Peter Mandaville and Melissa Nozell. August 2017. *Engaging Religion and Religious Actors in Countering Violent Extremism*. United States Institute of Peace: Washington DC.
- 2 David Gibson. 2011. *Does Religion Cause Terrorism? It's Complicated*. HuffPost. Accessed through: [https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/31/religion-terrorism\\_n\\_944143.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/08/31/religion-terrorism_n_944143.html)
- 3 Mr. Mehmood is the Chairperson of the PAIMAN Alumni Trust based in Islamabad, Pakistan.
- 4 Archbishop Antonio Ledesma is the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.





Muslim families. Muslims protected Christians trapped in the city during the siege. The volunteers who helped in providing food and shelter likewise included both Christians and Muslims. From the point of view of a majority of the Muslims and Christians, it is not a religious war but a war against terrorism.

Dr. Badlishah Sham Baharin<sup>5</sup> added that peace—the longing for peace—is a common human ideal. “We are humans first,” he insisted, “We come from the same father and so we are all the same, we are humans.” He added that “natural human behaviors” include caring, loving, and not injuring each other.

### Peace Education

The workshop discussion focused on two general themes with respect to the role of religion in preventing VE: *peace education* and *interfaith dialogues*.

Archbishop Ledesma called for peace education in communities, in schools—both secular and non-secular—and in local communities starting with peace education in the family. The primary importance of peace education is to build a culture of peace. Peace, he said, is not just the absence of conflict but involves many elements: need for personal and family integrity, work for justice, respect for democracy, social justice, poverty eradication, inter-religious dialogue, inter-cultural understanding and working for solidarity, cessation of hostilities and disarmament, and the need to care for the environment.

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) defined peace education “as the process of promoting the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values needed to bring about behavior changes that will enable children, youth and adults to prevent conflict and violence, both overt and structural; to resolve conflict peacefully; and to create the conditions conducive to peace, whether at an intrapersonal, interpersonal, intergroup, national or international level.”<sup>6</sup>

Peace education is therefore imperative in a region that has seen its share of violence from insurgencies, VE, inter-communal conflict, clan wars, and electoral as well as political violence. Peace education, in particular, plays a central role in challenging the extremists’ narrative of violence and hate.

The participants suggested that the government should invite religious leaders from all faith communities to a dialog on how to incorporate the

5 Dr. Baharin is a Professor at the Universiti Putra Malaysia.

6 Susan Fountain. June 1999. *Peace Education*. UNICEF: New York.





messages of peace, hope, understanding, respect for diversity, and camaraderie in the national curriculum.

Engaging the religious is, however, often problematic in some instances. Mistrust and mutual suspicions have typically characterized the relationship between the state and religious leaders in many areas. The state view some religious leaders as partisans that support contrary views and positions. In a few cases, governments have accused the religious of being part of, or at least sympathetic to, rebel groups. On the other hand, the religious have been, at times, suspicious of the intentions of government in its counterterrorism drive. They are wary of politicians in the government using the war against terror or some other PVE initiatives for partisan political goals.

Engaging religion and the religious in PVE efforts will therefore require better communication, building trust and breaking barriers that prevent them from working with each other effectively to counter and prevent VE.<sup>7</sup>

## Interfaith Dialog

Fr. Joel Tabora<sup>8</sup> argued that since many extremists misuse religion in the name of violence, it is imperative for religions and local communities to establish interfaith and intercultural dialogues that is rooted in the belief that all religions are religions of peace and compassion.

“The human who is not truly religious in the way that I am is not fully human,” Fr. Tabora expounded. He urged people from all faiths to acknowledge the urgent need for both inter and intrareligious dialogue and find deeper insights into various receptions within particular faith traditions. He continued: “Oneness unites and does not divide. Compassion uplifts and does not degrade.” Religious leaders, he said, have a responsibility to preach the message of peace and diversity. No one person and no one group has a monopoly of truth. To perform acts that bring extreme pain and suffering on other individuals, in the name of God, is a betrayal of God. We must unite to proclaim that “religion and violent extremism are incompatible.”

Intra and interfaith dialogue has been used in the past in the development community to help overcome conflict and resolve community disputes. It

7 Peter Mandaville and Melissa Nozell. August 2017. *Engaging Religion and Religious Actors in Countering Violent Extremism*. United States Institute of Peace: Washington DC.

8 Fr. Tabora is the President of the Ateneo de Davao University.





occurs when people from different faiths come together in order to foster better understanding of each other. The primary purpose is to overcome cultural and religious differences and focus instead on what is common among them. It is therefore a dialog that celebrates diversity and multiculturalism, promotes peace and tolerance, and addresses faith-based conflicts in communities.

Dr. Baharin cited the Malaysian Cohesion of Action as an example of community-based interfaith dialog where different NGOs, both Muslims and non-Muslims, create a chapter, agreed by all, striving for the common good, and taking care of the needs of each other.

He stressed the need for all sectors to reach a consensus in order to “de-ethnicize the issue.” In Malaysia, there have also been inter and intrafaith dialogues conducted in order to break the walls between races and religions. Instead of divisions, interfaith dialogues can harness the potential of the Chinese, Indian, and Muslim civilizations, making Malaysia a great country.

Archbishop Ledesma also cited the experience of the interfaith forum as instrumental in bridging Christians and Muslims in the Philippines—the Bishops-Ulama Conference (BUC). Launched in November 1996 in Cebu City, it was then called the Bishops-Ulama Forum.

The BUC is composed of 24 Catholic bishops who are also members of the Catholic Ulama Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), 26 Ulama and Ustadz, members of the Ulama League of the Philippines (ULP), and 18 Protestant bishops and pastors who are members of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP).

Also included as official observers are the officers of the *Panagtagbo*, a Confederation of 18 Indigenous Peoples of Mindanao, and bishops of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches (PCEC).

Today, the BUC continues its challenging task of building a “society where Christians, Muslims, Indigenous Peoples, and followers of other faith traditions, imbued with moral and spiritual values common to Christian, Islamic, and other religious beliefs, live together in harmony and peace.” The BUC has effectively participated in the peace processes in conflict areas in the Philippines and carried out other peace-building activities “through friendly and respectful dialogues which, however long and tedious, are the only human and humane ways of resolving conflicts.”





Many participants noted that interfaith dialogue is not only effective in basic conflict resolution but also in addressing VE. For instance, the UN has mobilized its various arms and agencies like the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Alliance of Civilizations, and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to foster intra and interfaith dialogue as a mechanism to help prevent and counter terrorism in order to promote “a culture of peace, justice, and human development, ethnic, national and religious tolerance and respect for all religions, religious values, beliefs or cultures by establishing and encouraging, as appropriate, education and public awareness programs involving all sectors of society.”

On the other hand, there were several participants who cautioned against interfaith dialogues that are not facilitated and organized well because these may end up further highlighting divisions and tensions between religious groups or between religions rather than promoting understanding. They argued that it is extremely critical that interfaith dialogue must be characterized by joint ownership among different religious groups to address VE more effectively.

This means that interfaith initiatives need to be inclusive with representatives of all groups freely participating in the forum. This also means that interfaith fora should include both traditional and nontraditional religious actors, including women and youth, taking into account the multiple identities and roles of different religious actors.<sup>9</sup> The worst thing that can happen is when interfaith efforts are seen as subterfuge for violations of religious freedom and other human rights, or to crack down on religious groups or forms of religious expression which the state perceive as political opposition.

## Capacity Building

With the increasing importance of religion and the religious in the attempt of communities to prevent VE, participants urged governments and international donors to focus on providing training for religious leaders.

*Social Media*—Participants identified the need to provide training on social media, specifically on how to utilize social media tools to counter VE online. This is particularly important to religious leaders at the grassroots level who might require basic social media training. Extremists have effectively used the Internet in recruiting supporters, mostly the youth, towards its cause.

9 Peter Mandaville and Melissa Nozell. August 2017. *Engaging Religion and Religious Actors in Countering Violent Extremism*. United States Institute of Peace: Washington DC.





*Communication*—Aside from training on the use of social media, participants also pointed to trainings on strategic communication and messaging as critical component of capacitating religious leaders in the battle for the hearts and minds of the people. Additionally, religious leaders must also be trained to increase their capabilities in developing effective counter-messages that resonate to the young.

*Counseling*—Another important capacity building training is mediation and counseling. The participants noted how important it is for schools, community leaders and religious leaders to have the capacity to identify those who are vulnerable to the messages of terrorists and they must have the ability to provide guidance and advice to young people experiencing angst, frustration and disillusionment with their life and the society they live in.

*Women*—The workshop output also stressed the need to “increase and strengthen the profile of women” who are perfectly positioned to lead efforts to combat VE. They stressed that women—both the religious and the secular—must be supported in their roles as mothers, teachers, community leaders and religious leaders.

## Beyond Religion

The participants agreed that religious leaders are integral members of the civil society and are key contributors to public and political discourse. In many areas, people trust their religious leaders more than their political leaders. Engaging them in developing plans to prevent violent extremism is critical. In particular, the participants noted the important role of religious leaders in fostering interfaith dialogues.

Hence, any effective endeavor to integrate religion and the religious into PVE efforts must take a non-traditional view of religious leaders. Religious leaders are not supernatural phenomenon but human beings grounded on existential realities. Their influence go beyond religion and spirituality. Hence, they are relevant to a much broader range initiatives associated with PVE: combating corruption, alleviating socioeconomic inequalities, strengthening democracy, resolving conflict, and peace-building. As the US Institute for Peace (USIP) correctly pointed out: “nudging religious actors out of a discrete domain of religion in the imagination and viewing them instead as an integral





component of broader civil society makes it possible to recognize and create roles for religious leaders in development projects and programs.<sup>10</sup>

Finally, the participants urged the religious sector to bring together people from different faiths and cultures to build meaningful relationships through the sharing of their cultures, beliefs, and traditions, as well as by creating a “safe space” for friendly disagreement. The participants also suggested the building of a broad-based, grassroots-level, and popular movement for peace, to complement security and political initiatives. They also noted that religion, which is often misused to divide and inflame, can also serve as a potent unifying force that can help tear down walls of ignorance and fear.

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<sup>10</sup> Peter Mandaville and Melissa Nozell. August 2017. *Engaging Religion and Religious Actors in Countering Violent Extremism*. United States Institute of Peace: Washington DC.







*Religious Thought Leaders:*  
Archbishop Antonio Ledesma, Dr. Badlishah Sham Baharin,  
Rev. Fr. Joel Tabora S.J., Mr. Shafqat Mehmood

*Facilitators:*  
Dr. Maszlee Malik; Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa







PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# The Role of Women







**N**oorus Salam<sup>1</sup> is a grassroots organization composed mainly of *aleemat*—female religious scholars—coming mostly from the southern Philippines where most of the minority Muslim population reside. It was established in 2010 to provide a platform for women religious leaders to become more active in peace issues and other matters important to Muslim communities.

Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo noted the increasing recognition being received by women and their role in resolving conflicts. She explained: “Our Muslim women religious leaders occupy very important roles in their communities. They are women and therefore at the center of family and community life but they are also religious scholars, respected and emulated by the faithful. That makes them uniquely positioned to assume leadership roles in Muslim communities.”

Women, like the *aleemat*, are becoming the focus of development efforts to address conflict areas and pursue negotiated peace. With the rise of violent extremism (VE) globally, women leaders find themselves at the center of initiatives to counter and prevent VE.

In fact, one of the most important developments in the global efforts to prevent violent extremism is the heightened focus on the role of women. The United Nations Secretary General (UNSG), in its Plan for Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, for instance, has urged member states to develop national plans “that is multi-disciplinary” and that take into consideration inputs from both government and non-government sectors, including women.

The United Nations and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF) have also called for greater focus on the roles of women in efforts to combat violent extremism. The UN Security Council came up with Resolution 2178 in 2015 on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) and called on member states to strengthen their engagements with the civil society, women and youth in PVE efforts. In addition, UNSCR 2242 (2015) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) urged member states to ensure the participation and leadership of women in developing national strategies in countering and preventing VE.<sup>2</sup>

1 Literally, “light of peace.”

2 Global Center on Cooperative Security (Global Center). August 2017. *The Roles of Women in Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia*. Washington DC.





It is for this reason that the *Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism* gave prominence to discussions on women and their role in peace-building and combating VE. The plenary panel and the two workshop sessions produced frank discussions and concrete outputs with regard to the important role of women in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE).

## Women and PVE

Women play a multitude of roles in VE and the understanding of the complexity of these roles requires different responses from those who want to tap the potential of women in PVE. Women have been victims and targets of extremists, some have been supporters or worse, combatants themselves, but more importantly, many have taken on the task of countering and preventing VE.<sup>3</sup>

The UNSG, in its Plan for Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, noted with alarm that violent extremists have systematically “violated the rights of women and girls through sexual enslavement, forced marriages and encroachment on their rights to education and participation in public life.”<sup>4</sup> For instance, ISIS has willfully targeted women and girls through mass abductions, torture, rape, and slavery.<sup>5</sup> The most appalling example of these acts is probably the 2014 abduction of more than 200 schoolgirls by the extremist *Boko Haram* in Chibok, Nigeria.

Women have also abetted VE in a number of ways by willingly participating as suicide bombers, recruiters, domestic servants, masterminds, soldiers, and many other roles. There have been reports that in Southeast Asia, women actively supported ISIS and other violent extremist groups through resource mobilization, recruitment (via social media), or encouraging family members to travel and fight in Syria and Iraq.<sup>6</sup>

3 United States Institute of Peace. 2015. *Charting a New Course: Women Preventing Violent Extremism*. Washington, DC.

4 United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General*. New York: United Nations.

5 UAE Mission to the United Nations and Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. 27 October 2014. *Women and Countering Violent Extremism*. New York.

6 Global Center on Cooperative Security (Global Center). August 2017. *The Roles of Women in Preventing Terrorism and Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia*. Washington DC.





Alissa Wahid<sup>7</sup> noted how women, some of whom are migrant workers, seem to have been effectively recruited by ISIS in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Hong Kong and Malaysia. She added that these women would then become recruiters themselves by disseminating extremist ideology through web-based platforms and chat groups.

She then explained that the initial approach in the recruitment process is usually in a friendly, non-political manner—the films that they like, family problems, or dealing with husbands or boyfriends—in order to establish a sense of connectedness or belongingness. The conversation then moves on to more serious ones.

Extremists offer three things to women: dignity, a world where Islam reigns supreme, and a role to play in the struggle. Along with these, two grand narratives are likewise employed. The first is the portrayal of the struggle as good versus evil or Muslim versus non-Muslim, with the latter depicted as those who conspire to destroy Islam. The second is the purification of Islam as opposed to globalization and its consequences of heterogeneity or pluralism. Wahid stressed that these narratives are the ones that bring women together, eventually developing their sense of mission to establish Islam as the most powerful institution in the world.

This was also discussed by Samira Gutoc-Tomawis<sup>8</sup> when she noted the need to understand the “messaging” being employed by terrorists in Mindanao. They would focus on the idea of changing the whole world to Islam as the solution to solving social, economic, and political problems. She added that extremists would claim that their group represents the true interest of the Muslims in the Philippines and that the other groups (the MILF and the MNLF, for instance) are no longer listening to the demands at the grassroots level.

A number of women have also provided active support or encouragement for violent extremists in their own families and communities such as young women using social media to express their support for ISIS. Some have become combatants themselves, joining the battlefields of Iraq and Syria. By some

7 Alissa Wahid is a trained family psychologist, but is most recognized for her work in the social sector on multiculturalism, democracy and human rights and moderate Muslim movements in Indonesia.

8 Ms. Gutoc-Tomawis is a member of the Ranao Rescue Team that was very active during the Marawi crisis in the Philippines. She is also a civil society leader among Muslim young women.





estimates, 300 women from the United States and Europe have traveled to Syria, Iraq, and Libya to join the “war.”<sup>9</sup>

Understanding why women become susceptible to the narrative of violent extremists is crucial in designing interventions. One focus is on the education of young girls. When there is lack of education or worse, *miseducation*, extremist ideologists tend to thrive. When religious education focus on anachronistic gender values or intolerant teachings, radicalization and VE are usually the next steps. As Kamala Chandrakirana stressed, women as mothers are double-bladed swords as they can be either the harbingers of peace and tolerance or the source of radicalization and extremism.

In addition, political and social inequities may explain why women join, support and abet VE. For instance, in studying the women combatants of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a separatist movement from the minority Tamil community in Sri Lanka, Nimmi Gowrinathan noted that “lived experiences with militarization shaped the daily life of most Tamil women,”<sup>10</sup> thus making them susceptible for recruitment by radical elements who exploit these unequal and unjust conditions to increase their support base.

This was likewise pointed out by Ms. Angkhana Neelapaijit, a Commissioner of Thailand's National Human Rights Commission, when she highlighted the situation of ethnic minorities and women in countries that are mired in seemingly intractable conflicts such as Thailand. Since women bore the brunt of the impacts of conflict, it is important that they must be included in policy-making and peace-building initiatives. Exacerbating the situation in Thailand, which is currently under military rule, is the fact that ethnic minorities and women lack economic opportunities.

Ms. Neelapaijit stressed the importance of preserving religious tolerance, or more generally, “tolerance of differences.” Human rights violations are typically reflections of systematic discrimination especially of indigenous people. Even though Thailand is regarded as a multicultural society, better understanding within the Thai community of the need for tolerance and understanding leaves much to be desired.

9 United States Institute of Peace. 2015. *Charting a New Course: Women Preventing Violent Extremism*. Washington, DC.

10 Nimmi Gowrinathan. Motivations of Female Fighters. In *Ibid*.







Repressive policies, all-out wars, discrimination, and economic deprivation do not only kill and displace people. Instead, these leave a lasting impression of oppression and a desire to seek justice often through the use of violence. Persecution, real or imagined, is the best recruitment tool for violent extremists.

On the other hand, women are not only victims or perpetrators of terrorism as they also play an important role in countering and prevention of violent extremism (C/PVE). Overlooking this unique capability of women as leaders of their families and communities is a setback to any C/PVE initiative.

The most apparent role of women in PVE is their role in strengthening family ties that may prevent family members from joining extremist groups. Building a family around the values of love, peace and tolerance is critical in preventing young people from falling prey to the narratives of extremists. Women, therefore, can more effectively present a counter-narrative to the extremist story of hate, intolerance and violence.

In the same way that ISIS employs women to attract other women from all over the world to join their 'struggle', women can be employed to dissuade young girls and boys from joining ISIS. By working with family members and through their roles as educators and leaders within their communities (as religious leaders in the case of the *aleemat*), women play critical roles in challenging extremism where the fight is actually being waged: in the hearts and minds of people at the grassroots level.

No PVE effort can ever be successful unless women are at the heart of such a strategy, and it begins with gender equality, education, and greater political participation for women in society. As Edit Schlaffer correctly pointed out in her essay, *Charting New Ways with New Partners*, the vision is clear as day: "to empower a generation of confident and competent women who can open dialogue and challenge extremist ideas and ideologies in their families and communities." Whether as mothers, guardians, educators, community, and civil society leaders, religious scholars and business leaders, women are at the frontlines of the battle for the soul of communities threatened by extremism.<sup>11</sup>

11 Edit Schlaffer. 2015. *Charting New Ways with New Partners*. In *Charting a New Course: Women Preventing Violent Extremism*. United States Institute of Peace: Washington, DC.





## Democracy and Pluralism

How can the role of women in PVE be enhanced and institutionalized when the increased focus on women has failed to produce a stronger institutional role for women and women's organizations in the fight against VE?

Atty. Maria Cecilia Jimenez Damary<sup>12</sup> situated the role of women in PVE within the larger context of more democratic space for women by highlighting the need for their greater political participation in the democratization process.

However, Atty. Jimenez pointed out that Southeast Asia has seen a significant retreat in terms of democracy. Democracy in the region has, for a long time, been in a precarious situation challenged by lingering authoritarian tendencies, weak democratic culture, corruption, and poverty. Unless these democratic deficits are addressed, “we can never really talk about effective roles of women in preventing violent extremism.”

Democracy requires open spaces where everyone—minority groups, women, youth, people with disabilities, and others—can participate meaningfully in politics. The institutionalization of women's participation in PVE efforts is, therefore, predicated on their political participation in general. Unless women are in a position of power and decision-making, it would be difficult to maximize their potential in the PVE.

As Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa<sup>13</sup> argued, effective PVE policies are only possible when the role of women in policy making is considered. The role of women is so important that they cannot, and should not, be relegated to the sidelines. The participation of women should be ensured in drafting national action plans and PVE road maps. This is because women are uniquely positioned to understand and detect changes in their communities.

This was also the point raised by Ms. Mra Sabai Nyun, Chair and Program Director of the Myanmar-based Rakhine Thayaha Association, who suggested that women should fight for their role in policy making in order to advance women's rights, development, health and education, and protection from any forms of violence including extremism. In other words, it is incorrect to compartmentalize women's participation in PVE and divorce it from the

12 Atty. Jimenez is the UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

13 Ms. Dharmadasa is the Founding Chair of the Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action in Sri Lanka.





larger issue of gender equality. This means that women should work towards transforming attitudes, relationships, behaviors, and social structures.

Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana<sup>14</sup> emphasized that pluralism is central in creating alternative narratives and that it is the responsibility of the state to protect this pluralism. Reflecting on the experiences of the women in Indonesia, she noted the importance of creating “a whole infrastructure of safe spaces” for women. These are safe, creative spaces where they challenge the extremist ideology and confront the fundamentalists. The women invoke references not just of religion but of nation and of the constitution, which are considered as components of the social contract.

This safe and free space allows women's movements to exercise autonomy, not just financially but also in their capacity for independent analysis. This is the core for women's movement and is essential in addressing a whole range of diverse issues. All those engaged in PVE work must commit to support women and in enabling their autonomy.

### Women's Narratives

Political participation should not be limited to electoral participation. Jimenez cited the role of women as mothers and as community leaders that should be exploited in order to protect communities from extremists' hold. Here, women should not just be limited to using a counter-narrative to combat the extremist narrative, they should be allowed to develop their own narrative based on their specific context.

This was pointed out by Prof. Samina Yasmeen<sup>15</sup> who stressed the central role of narratives and counter-narratives in the discussion of VE and the efforts to prevent it. The purpose of these narratives—whether good or bad—is to get people to think about a particular vision or goal and what state they want to be in.

Prof. Yasmeen pointed out that women need to have a say in this narrative/ counter-narrative discussion. Specifically, they should be empowered to be able to shape the counter-narrative to extremist ideology. She pointed out that the

<sup>14</sup> Ms. Chandrakirana is the Coordinator of Koalisi Keadilan dan Pengungkapan Kebenaran (KKPK) in Indonesia.

<sup>15</sup> Prof. Yasmeen is the Director of the Center for Muslim States and Societies (CMSS) at the University of Western Australia.





process of crafting this counter-narrative should include women from all kinds of background and not just the religious.

Prof. Yasmeen then pointed to a critical issue in empowering women in the PVE discourse: networking and communications. She emphasized that men and women need to engage in this discourse. It is especially important to allow and empower women to present their ideas to an audience where men may have an opposing idea. She urged participants to avoid becoming “echo chambers” and engage other sectors, even those that are skeptical, and communities that have done research on similar topics of preventing conflict, including those in the Middle East as well as those in Southeast Asia.

As Ms. Nyun also pointed out, the problem sometimes with civil society — business and government working on social economic development or in good governance — is that they have a tendency to work in a very compartmentalized manner, thereby missing the larger picture.

The impact of women's voices on the ground is weakened when their voices are “disconnected” or when they have a myopic view of the tasks at hand. Through linkages and partnerships, women around the world need to share their experiences, victories, and setbacks in order to fully maximize the power of their voices. They need to work with the government, the private sector and other civil society organizations (CSOs). This idea was also expressed by Ms. Ustadja Anisa Taha<sup>16</sup> who discussed the vision of Noorus Salam as a means to demonstrate the importance of partnership between women and the government. Noorus Salam is a national network of *aleemat*<sup>17</sup> peace advocates which aims to mobilize and strengthen the unity, cooperation, and coordination among the Bangsamoro women sector as well as advance the desired peace development in Muslim Mindanao.

The organization, with the help of the PCID and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), has received training on human rights, women's rights, and child rights which they plan to integrate in educating their own communities. Some members train in good governance, especially in times of elections, while others receive training in health and nutrition. To make their engagement in the community more sustainable, they have also partnered with the local government, other CSOs, the Bangsamoro Development Agency, the Bangsamoro Leaders Management Institute, the Department of Social Work

<sup>16</sup> Ms. Taha is the Central Mindanao Coordinator for Noorus Salam.

<sup>17</sup> Muslim women religious scholars and teachers





and Development (DSWD), the Department of Health (DOH), and the National Nutrition Council (NNC).

### What can be done?

Dr. Hanny Cueva Beteta, Regional Advisor on Governance, Peace and Security of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), argued that any attempt to counter VE must view it from a gender perspective, focusing on how terrorism uses gender stereotypes in its recruitment and in spreading its message around the globe.

She noted that extremists are adept at tailoring their message for women depending on the region. She suggested that groups involved in crafting such a plan need to understand how terrorists are manipulating gender roles in their strategy, how women can be more engaged in the process, and consequently, how to promote the empowerment of women.

The conference participants argued that women should be part of the development of national plans to prevent VE as well as in any peace-building initiative. They urged national and local governments to recognize the role of women by giving them meaningful roles in peace-building programs.

The participants also enjoined international funding institutions to increase support for women organizations and groups championing the participation of women in peace processes and preventing VE. As the United States Institute for Peace (USIP) noted, “these organizations often have deep and meaningful relationships with their communities and a track record of addressing community needs, giving them legitimacy to be mediators within their communities.”<sup>18</sup>

They added that capacity-building training for women should be organized to help them navigate social media as well as define peace narratives to counter extremism online.

Focusing on the political participation of women, participants urged the government and other stakeholders to increase the political and democratic spaces for women. They noted that political participation should not be limited only to electoral participation but also in the role of women in the community.

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<sup>18</sup> United States Institute for Peace. 2015. *Charting a New Course: Women Preventing Violent Extremism*. Washington DC.





Specifically, Ms. Rafia Bhulai, Senior Programs Officer of the New York-based Global Center on Cooperative Security itemized important to-do's in utilizing the enormous potential of women in the PVE. The list includes:

1. Training for capacity building methods for women-led and women-focused organizations specifically on:
  - a. Gender-sensitive media and communication campaigns;
  - b. Peace building, conflict mitigation, female empowerment for religious leaders to help them become partners and advocates in building a resilient civil society; and
  - c. General paralegal and access to justice training for women to raise their understanding of terrorism legislation, more specifically, to increase the number of lawyers in communities that are overly targeted and prosecuted.
2. Developing PVE strategies that are guided from the bottom-up by a gender-sensitive approach and informed by local assessment and input; partnerships and collaborations with governments and civil society groups that are crucial in improving PVE policy and practice and ensuring that CSOs have the freedom and space to move forward independently; greater support for sustained cross country and regional engagement between and among civil society, governments, international donors, and others to help enhance knowledge and improve collaboration; formation of CSO networks that are focused on CVE; expanding networking and information-sharing opportunities for women; generating gender sensitive research, welcoming ideas, and policy recommendations.
3. Increasing support for quality, and context-sensitive research to stress how gender dynamics play a role in VE and the PVE. More studies are needed to look at women's grievances, sympathies, and ideological inclinations, that contribute for the participation and support to and for VE and terrorist groups.





Better strategic coordination and adherence among efforts to integrate gender dimension into civic policies and practice, including supporting synergies and the women's place in security agenda. At the national level, this could mean integrating peace and security, development and human rights humanist principles into national CVE strategies. It is critical to leverage the past experiences, knowledge, and lessons from these different areas to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women and the development and implementation of CVE strategies and programs. On a practical level, representatives of women peace and security national action plans steer committees and agencies could be meaningfully engaged with the processes established to level up, implement national CVE strategies, and formal feedback mechanisms could be formed to help this process.







*Women Thought Leaders:*

*Ms. Alissa Wahid, Ms. Samira Gutoc Tomawis, Ms. Rafia Bhulai, Atty. Ma. Cecilia Jimenez-Damary*

*Facilitators:*

*Dr. Maria Lourdes Veneracion Rallonza, Dr. Socorro Reyes*





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# The Voice of the Youth







The United Nations (UN) could not have stated it more forcefully when it proclaimed:

We will not be successful unless we can harness the idealism, creativity and energy of young people and others who feel disenfranchised. Young people, who constitute the majority of the population of an increasing number of countries today, must be viewed as an asset and must be empowered to make a constructive contribution to the political and economic development of their societies and nations. They represent an untapped resource. We must offer them a positive vision of their future together with a genuine chance to realize their aspirations and potential.<sup>1</sup>

The world has always celebrated the promise of youth—they are the future of this earth and they are important agents of change. On the other hand, a look at a number of statistics on the condition of the youth today seems to cast a shadow on their bright future.

One out of six people living today are aged between 15 to 24, the UN definition of youth. By 2030, the UN projects the youth population to grow to nearly 1.3 billion. It is a young world, especially considering that in 2015 the median age of the global population was 29.6 years of age.<sup>2</sup>

Asia is home to the largest number of young people: 754 million. Its youth population has tripled since 1950 and is expected to be home to more youth than any other region until 2080, when it could be surpassed by Africa, according to UN projections.<sup>3</sup>

### **“Neither Employed, nor in Education or Training”**

Conflict, unemployment, and lack of education remain as the main obstacles to the world's future leaders. Six hundred million young people live in fragile and conflict-affected settings and subsequently, young men and women become victims of conflicts of which, they are neither the cause nor the initiator.

- 1 United Nations General Assembly. 2015. *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General*. New York: United Nations.
- 2 United Nations. 2012. *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, CD-ROM Edition-Extended Dataset*. New York
- 3 United Nations World Youth Report. 2011. *Youth Demographics Worldwide*. New York.





In its 2016 *World Employment Social Outlook: Trends for Youth*, the International Labour Organization (ILO) painted a bleak picture of the present condition of many of the young people around the world.

The organization pegged the global youth unemployment rate at 13.1% which is an increase from the 2015 rate of 12.9%. This means that there are 71 million unemployed youth globally.<sup>4</sup> Countries like South Africa, Spain and Greece face extremely high youth unemployment, with rates above 50%, while in Jordan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, youth unemployment rates were at 3%.

The situation is no better for those who are employed. The ILO reported that those young people who manage to get a job are poor. It noted that 37.7% of working youth or, “roughly 156 million youth in emerging and developing countries live in extreme poverty (less than US\$1.90 per capita per day) or in moderate poverty (between US\$1.90 and US\$3.10) despite being in employment.”

The gender gap in terms of labor force participation is particularly dismaying. The labor force participation rate for young men stands at 53.9%, compared to 37.3% for young women—representing a gap of 16.6 per cent.<sup>5</sup>

Another worrying data is the number of young people classified as NEET, or, “neither employed, nor in education or training,” a situation which the ILO considered as a “status that carries risks of skills deterioration, underemployment and discouragement.” In its study of 28 countries, ILO found that “roughly 25% of the youth population aged between 15 and 29 years old are categorized as NEET.”<sup>6</sup>

The lack of education of many young people is corroborated by a UNESCO report showing that 124 million children are not in school, have dropped out, or have never been to school. In Southeast Asia, where youth unemployment actually declined from 12.4% to 8.0% in 2017, close to seven million children of both primary and lower secondary school-age are not where they should be: getting an education.<sup>7</sup>

4 International Labour Organization. 2016. *World Employment Social Outlook: Trends for Youth* 2016. ILO: Geneva.

5 Ibid.

6 Ibid

7 UNESCO. 2017. *Situation Analysis of Out-of-School Children in Nine Southeast Asian Countries*. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization: Paris and Bangkok





Exposed to the harsh realities of conflict, unemployed, unable to get education, disillusioned about their future, angry at the system that is responsible for their impoverished situation, millions of young people have become vulnerable to extremist ideologies that promise liberation by fighting current oppressive institutions.

It is therefore not a surprise that radical and extremist groups have been, for a long time now, targeting young people by exploiting their restlessness, frustrations and resentment. The Brussels-based Search for Common Ground reported how most of the terrorist groups have actively recruited disillusioned young people to their fold. It noted that “majority of Boko Haram fighters are teenagers, the typical ISIS recruit is around 26, and most Jemaah Islamiyah members are young and male.”<sup>8</sup>

In the Philippines, the phenomenon of children in conflict has been a persistent problem. The UN, for instance, reported that armed groups operating in the Philippines, including the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), New People’s Army (NPA), Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), continue to recruit and use children for combat and non-combat roles.

The UN verified the recruitment and use of 17 children, including 15 children used as human shields, by the BIFF in one incident, and two were recruited by NPA. Unverified reports indicated that the ASG recruited around 30 children in Basilan in April.<sup>9</sup> More recently, the Department of National Defense (DND), citing testimonies from civilians who escaped the Marawi siege, reported that the Maute Group<sup>10</sup> are being aided by child warriors.<sup>11</sup>

It should be noted, however, that even though unemployed, uneducated, and poor young people are mainly influenced by extremist ideas, there are also young people coming from relatively upper social segments who become susceptible to radical ideologies and violent extremism (VE).

8 Margaret Williams. 2017. *Working Together to Address Violent Extremism: A Strategy For Youth-Government Partnerships*. Search For Common Ground: Brussels.

9 The United Nations. 20 April 2016. *Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict (A/70/836–S/2016/360)*: New York.

10 A local terror group which pledged allegiance to ISIS and lay siege to Marawi City in 2017.

11 ABS-CBN News. 28 August 2017. Marawi terrorists mount 'last stand', child warriors join battlefield: military. Retrieved from <http://news.abs-cbn.com/news/08/28/17/marawi-terrorists-mount-last-stand-child-warriors-join-battlefield-military>





### Seducing the Young and the Restless

Mr. Lutfi Hakim<sup>12</sup> cited the study of his Malaysia-based organization, the Iman Research, which reported that young people have a great sense of pessimism and disillusionment with politics and government, with many blaming corruption for the inequities and poverty they are experiencing.

Dr. Wendy Yee<sup>13</sup> noted how the youth's deprivation, injustices, and frustrations are exploited by very charismatic leaders and recruiters of violent extremist groups who offer a narrative and an ideology that justifies violence and blurs their moral compasses. In addition, through the use of images and false claims spread through social media, terrorist recruiters are able to project war and violence in a romantic, glamorous, and heroic light.

The essay, "Understanding the Narrative of the Terrorist from the Perspective of the Youth," published by the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), described how extremists glamorize their struggle and depict their movement as a righteous cause. Indeed, idealistic notions of a "just cause" against the "cruel and dictatorial aggressors" usually find resonance with the psyche of the young.

Dissatisfied young people are the targets of violent extremists' recruitment efforts. They feed on young people who are angry and frustrated with both the system and the authority in place and therefore want to change the status quo. Then they would offer a legitimizing ideology to justify war and violence as a means to solve existing problems in the society.<sup>14</sup>

Although the recruitment pattern is context-specific, there are some similar strains. In most cases, the recruiter focuses on ideas of friendship, brotherhood, and family in the context of fighting for a religion or an ideology. Once this has been accomplished, the recruiters heighten the dissatisfaction of the youth on existing institutions by exploiting problems in the family, and social inequities, among others. This is done in order to create distance between a recruit and their emotional bonds with family and community. Finally, once young people embrace the idea that society is rotten and it has to be overturned, it is just a

12 Mr. Hakim is an Associate for Political Communications of Iman Research in Malaysia.

13 Dr. Yee is Professor and Senior Lecturer at the University of Malaya, Malaysia.

14 Thomas Koruth Samuel. 2012. *Reaching the Youth : Countering the Terrorist Narrative*. Kuala Lumpur





matter of time before they can jump into the conclusion that VE is justified to break down the old system in favor of their vision of the world.<sup>15</sup>

This is nothing new, of course. Young generations in history are almost always dissatisfied with the old ways in the same way that older generations are frustrated at what they see as the radicalism of youth. On the other hand, terrorism in the age of social media has multiplied the severity of the problem. Terrorist groups have exploited the viral nature of the new media and the vulnerability of the youth in order to expand their base.

Dr. Yee further argued that preventing young people from falling prey to VE requires the involvement of parents and families considering the emotional and psychological support necessary in developing values and identities. Young people must be capacitated so they can become meaningful partners in peace-building.

Moreover, the importance of human rights education, cannot be overlooked. Human rights education teaches fundamental lessons in the value of human life and dignity. The battle to prevent VE begins with education that is grounded on human rights, peace education, and the promotion of arts and culture “as early as possible, on the benches of schools.”

Dr. Yee explained that exposing young people to culture, arts, and the humanities, is a life-enhancing experience that will define their personal and community identities. It will teach them the values of freedom, peace, civility, and love.

She added that schools, religious scholars, and community leaders need to work together to counterbalance the narrative used by extremists that has been popular to young people—the idea that inflicting violence and waging war is an imperative and waging a just war or a holy war would be rewarded by a path to paradise.

Ms. Theresa Fe Oliver<sup>16</sup> argued that the society needs to provide capacity building opportunities for young people in order to realize their potential as leaders of the future. This includes leadership skills training, training on human rights, children's rights, and women's rights.

15 L. Slachmuisjlder. 2017. *Transforming Violent Extremism: A Peace-builder's Guide*, 1st ed. Washington DC: Search for Common Ground.

16 Ms. Oliver is the Youth Organizer and Training Office of the Mindanao-based Panaghiusa Alang sa Kaigalingnanug Kalingkawasan (PASAKK) Inc.





## Online Battle

Technology is essentially neutral, i.e., it is neither good or evil. It depends on how technology is employed. This is the case with the Internet. This new information and communications technology (ICT) revolutionized the way we do business, our daily lives, and the way we communicate with one another. Unfortunately, criminals, sexual predators, and terrorists have also seized on the Internet to further their evil intentions.

Mr. Robi Sugara<sup>17</sup> declared that the most important frontline in the battle against violent extremism is the Internet. He cited the case of Indonesia where local terror groups who are supportive and affiliated with ISIS are very adept at utilizing the reach of social media to the youth. This is a very potent force since there are an estimated 100 million Indonesian users of social media, most of them young people. He argued that “we need to take back the Internet; we need to use it as a vehicle of our good messages.”

He related how his organization, the Indonesian Crisis Center focuses on Muslim families and society by using the new technology. In its campaign to prevent VE, they use platforms that are appealing to the youth like using comic strips or videos to counter radical ideologies.

Ms. Jasmine Binti Mohamed Jawhar<sup>18</sup> noted how the recruitment and radicalization of young people are done on social media platforms, thus, the need for PVE advocates to take notice of radicalization activities that take place online. Terrorists have used the Internet to spread propaganda on social media, wherein they have been successful in radicalization, recruitment, communication, and fundraising. One way they do this is through data mining by going through the comments section, profiling individuals, and identifying people who are most vulnerable. These use these information to select potential recruits for extremist groups.

In countering violent extremism (CVE) online, she suggested that PVE efforts must make counter narratives that cater to local flavor, cultural, and gender contexts. It is also important to have a strong visual component, especially if the target audience are young people.

This was also the message of Mr. Noor Huda Ismail, founder of the Indonesia Institute for International Peace Building, when he discussed the use

17 Mr. Sugara is the Executive Director of the Indonesian Muslim Crisis Centre.

18 Ms. Jahwar is a director at the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter Terrorism.







of documentary films to create meaningful conversations on CVE. He said that the youth needed conversations about VE and how to prevent it. People need to share stories so that we can learn from each other. He discussed his documentary film, *Jihad Selfie*, a film intended to open a dialogue and public discourse about social media as a tool to recruit youngsters in order to join radical groups.

The Habibie Center in Indonesia does a similar project with the Community Empowerment in Raising Inclusivity and Trust through Technology Application (CERITA) which is primarily a storytelling platform where young Indonesians can tell their stories about life, about being human, and share these stories online to inspire others. Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim, its executive director, explained that telling people's stories enables individuals with different backgrounds and beliefs to understand each other and find common ground.

Interestingly, Mr. Hakim reported that according to the study conducted by the Iman Research in Malaysia, young people are open to the idea of communicating with others and understanding others' perceptions. However, while the interest in communicating with others is present, there is also a very low level of cross cultural interactions often resulting to "misunderstanding and discomfort among the youth."

Ms. Maria Ressa<sup>19</sup> reinforced this idea when she underscored the need to use social media so "we can know each other." Knowing each other humanizes the interaction in the otherwise anonymous world of the Internet. It increases trust among netizens which, in turn, challenges one of the narratives used by radicals online: exploit division and cultivate hate of others. She urged people to "get rid of the differences, find a common ground, and use technology to scale." This is crucial, she said, because there has been an exponential growth in the spread of the ideology of hate on social media.

While social media and the Internet have played a significant role in the recruitment of terrorist organizations, they have also employed traditional ways of co-opting young people. In some cases, like that of Mindanao, recruitment is done face-to-face, with young people being invited to join prayer groups. Some anecdotal evidence provided by conference participants suggest that young Muslims ages 18-20 join prayer groups that last for several days and before they know it they have become members or sympathizers of ISIS. This is why several studies have pointed to *madaris* and *madrasahs* as potential areas for radicalization.

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<sup>19</sup> Ms. Ressa is the CEO of the internet-based news organization, Rappler.





This theory was confirmed by a 2017 study conducted by the Institute for Autonomy and Governance which confirmed the presence of recruiters of VE groups in their communities who drove people to being radicalized. The study revealed that recruiters were active in local educational institutions (madaris) and in mosques after the Friday prayers. Quite disturbingly, the respondents conceded that the recruiters were often charming and persuasive.<sup>20</sup>

### What can be done?

Ms. Ressa focused on three emerging themes in preventing and countering the spread of VE among young people: (1) empower the youth, (2) harness communities, and (3) build communities of actions.

She stressed the need for any programs designed to counter radicalization to be built from the bottom-up rather than top-down because it makes communities more resilient.

She also cited the role of good governance in terms of creating opportunities—education and employment—for the youth to lessen their vulnerabilities to radicalization. Ms. Ressa then argued that as a person gets radicalized, the family influence decreases. She explained that the family and other social institutions should be able to detect the signs of radicalization.

There is a wide consensus that young people should not be viewed as mere targets of VE because they are also the most important weapon against extremists. Young people have a unique and critical perspective on VE, based on their understanding of what drives recruitment at the community level and the programs and policy necessary to address it. Their proximity to “local realities, systemic grievances, and messaging that may lead to radicalization result in unique insights on how to effectively de-radicalize those who have chosen to join extremist groups.”

The workshop participants cited two reasons for the need to engage the youth in the process of preventing VE. First, the youth is the primary target of radicalizing recruiters. Second, the youth understands the language of the youth and the world of social media, making them indispensable partners in preventing VE.

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20 Institute for Autonomy and Governance. 2017. *Research on Youth Vulnerability to Violent Extremism in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao*. IAG: Cotabato City





They reiterated the plenary recommendation of the conference to “empower ASEAN youth to participate in countering radicalization by developing messages that will resonate with young people being targeted by violent extremists, among others,” and to take a leadership role in “strengthening our strategies in cyberspace and social media, allowing our people to build peaceful communities online, challenging messages of hate and intolerance with positive messages of trust and acceptance of our diversity.”

One recommendation is for society to invest in quality education, both formal and non-formal, that facilitates intercultural dialogue, and provide young people with citizenship and human rights education which will have a positive impact on society.

There is also a need for government, the private sector, civil society and international development institutions to support programs designed to develop a culture of peace, tolerance and respect among young people. Educational platforms from formal to informal to social media must put forward a counter-narrative that not only debunks the extremists’ narrative but also present an alternative story of cultural diversity, dialogue, peace, and fairness.

On the political front, young men and women need to be integrated into decision-making processes at both local and national levels, by establishing youth councils and similar mechanisms which give young women and men a platform for participating in mainstream political discourses. In particular, PVE and CVE efforts, including the development of national plans, should include inputs from the youth.

For this to happen, society needs to create an enabling environment for the empowerment and democratic participation of youth, in order to ensure that young women and men have the opportunities to become critical and active citizens. This enabling environment means that the government, civil society and the private sector need to work with young people/youth organizations to improve their skills, capacity gaps, and to address any obstacles hampering their participation in democracy.

They also urged the government as well as primarily businesses to provide more economic opportunities for young people especially those who come from the marginalized sectors of the population. Private investments in areas of potential or ongoing conflict can provide employment, opportunities, and the sense of belonging to young people, thereby preventing them from getting involved in violent extremist acts.





Another consensus that emerged was the importance of strengthening the family and empowering the youth. Studies have shown that the radicalization of the youth correlates with the decrease of the family's influence. Growing up in a family and a community that values diversity and respect for differences is essential in ensuring that young people have the capacity to resist extremists' propaganda and lead their fellow youth to more productive and peaceful endeavors.

Related to this, the participants also urged political leaders to set good examples to the youth by upholding the universal values of equality and mutual respect rather than engaging in acts and rhetoric that divides people and undermines diversity and tolerance of differences.





*Youth Thought Leaders:*

*Dr. Wendy Yee, Mr. Rackchart Wong-Arthichart, Mr. Robi Sugara, Ms. Theresa Fe Oliver*

*Facilitators:*

*Ms. Beverly Orozco; Mr. Marc Batac*





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Special Briefing Workshop on Marawi









The Conference was held at a time when the battle to flush the Maute Group out of Marawi was still ongoing. The attack on Marawi in May 2017 had caught the attention of security experts and peace advocates because this was one of the clearest signals that ISIS, after its defeats in Libya, Syria and Iraq, had positioned itself in the Southeast Asian region. Some were worried that Marawi might be used as a 'clarion call' for all the other violent extremists in ASEAN.

As noted by some experts, ISIS had already exploited the Marawi Siege "by calling for the establishment of an Islamic State in the Philippines" raising the specter of local militants duplicating the siege in other parts of Southeast Asia.<sup>1</sup>

For these reasons, a special briefing workshop on the Marawi situation was organized for the Conference which was moderated by Undersecretary Austere Panadero of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) with Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto, representing Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra, and Dr. Safrullah Dipatuan as resource person.

Amb. Lanto's discussion provided a useful backdrop to the Marawi Siege when he focused on an overview of Marawi City's history, location, culture, and its significance in Mindanao as the center for educational, political, religious, and economic affairs of the Maranaos.

He noted that the Maute attack was by no means the only significant conflict that Marawi had gone through. The city's experiences during martial law, instances of *rido* (clan conflicts), clashes between local warlords, and the persistent encounters between state forces and armed liberation fronts have, in the past, disrupted the peace in the Islamic City and the region in general.

Amb. Lanto focused on the underlying causes, mainly poverty and injustice as well as some issues on the education system. For instance, he stressed that the kind of Islam taught to students, particularly young men, in some of the Islamic schools or madrasah tend to make them vulnerable to extremism. These schools are therefore being tagged as a breeding ground for radicalism.

The latter part of his discussion provided what he called as an insider's view on the crisis. He recounted that most of the local population were surprised

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1 Jasminder Singh. 19 October 2017. "Liberation" of Marawi: Implications for Southeast Asia. In RSIS Commentary, Number 197. S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU





that the Maute group attacked Marawi City when the brothers themselves had relatives in the city. In the words of one of the participants from Marawi: “it seemed illogical that a bird will burn its own nest.”

Moving forward, he expressed his belief that the best way to address the current situation in Marawi is by sustaining the martial law declaration made by President Duterte. He added that the long-term rehabilitation of Marawi would also require government support for improvement of local governance, the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law (BBL) and assistance from development partners and the Arab countries. He stressed the importance of rebuilding Marawi and expand infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, and mosques.

Dr. Dipatuan, for his part, lauded the thematic direction of the conference. He said that the issue of violent extremism (VE) has to be addressed with a holistic approach simply because the root causes of the conflict and the conditions that give rise to violent extremism are complex.

He noted that the rise of radicalization in Mindanao is due to “deprivation of our right to self-determination, continuing poverty, land disposition, failure of government to effectively curb graft and corruption, poor delivery of basic services, and unabated criminalities like senseless killings and drug trafficking.”

Dr. Dipatuan focused on one main point which is the failure of the Philippine government to implement the peace agreements with the Moro liberation movements, such as the MILF and MNLF. The frustrations and demoralization harbored by the Bangsamoro throughout the peace process has the effect of pushing some of the Moro people to extremism and radicalism. Dr. Dipatuan strongly believed that the end of the Marawi Siege does not equate to the end of radicalism in Mindanao. The way to realistically achieve the latter is to give the Bangsamoro people “political space to achieve its aspiration for self-governance under a context of a larger Philippine nation state” which entails the passage of the BBL.

The BBL is the current incarnation of decades-long struggles by the government and liberation fronts to achieve a politically-negotiated peace in Mindanao. The most recent effort during the previous administration was





hijacked by a bungled police operation in Mamasapano<sup>2</sup> that shattered whatever political momentum the agreement had.

President Duterte—who campaigned on a platform that included peace in Mindanao and federalism—received in July 2017 the new draft of the BBL from the expanded Bangsamoro Transition Commission.

Marathon hearings have been conducted in Congress, and the Senate in particular, has conducted its first public consultation on the proposed BBL in Cotabato City in January 2018. This was followed by similar consultations in Marawi City, Zamboanga City, Jolo in Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi.

Beyond the “liberation” of Marawi, the government must be able to implement short- and long-term solutions with respect to the recovery of the city. Workshop participants clarified that rehabilitation should not be limited to physical infrastructures, but should also include stabilizing elements that would allow the government to fulfill its functions, such as being able to deliver basic social services and livelihood to the constituents of the city.

For the long-term solution, the main recommendation discussed was the passing of the BBL, which is envisioned to provide Bangsamoro their own political space and for them to achieve their aspirations of self-governance. Upon its passing, the government could then shift towards a federal form of government to really put closure on the peace talks.

The workshop discussions featured animated debates as to which of the two long term solutions should be implemented first. Dr. Dipatuan took the position that the passage of the BBL is more crucial and, in fact, a more realistic option. The speakers and the participants were united in calling for an expedited passing of the bill now pending in the legislature. In the end, the participants agreed that solutions being recommended by the people of Mindanao should be considered since they are the direct beneficiaries of such alternatives.

Apart from the peace agreement with the MILF, the Duterte administration has also embarked on an intensified effort to shift to a federal form of government. Pres. Duterte has argued that the attainment of genuine and sustainable peace in Mindanao cannot take place unless power is distributed to

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2 A municipality in Maguindanao where 44 members of the PNP's Special Action Force died after they clashed with armed groups in the area. The “Mamasapano Massacre” triggered negative reactions toward the BBL that led to its eventual collapse.





the periphery. He recognized that “the problems in Mindanao will not end with the death of terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute.”<sup>3</sup>

It would appear that the administration has embarked on a two-pronged approach—peace agreement with the MILF and federalism—in addressing the intractable problems in Mindanao. While many of the workshop participants from Muslim Mindanao are partial to federalism as a form of government, the overwhelming consensus is that the passage and genuine implementation of the BBL should be the top priority. The processes and time involved in shifting to federalism, the participants feared, might create complications that could derail the passage of the BBL.

As a conclusion, the participants believed that while the Marawi Siege raised very important issues, the path to peace in Mindanao has not been altered: peace through the BBL, then development through federalism.

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3 Alexis Romero. 17 October 2017. Duterte renews pitch for federalism for Mindanao peace. Accessed through: <https://www.philstar.com/headlines/2017/10/17/1750010/duterte-renews-pitch-federalism-mindanao-peace#sy4EHIXVuzB2bwzd.99>





PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

# Special Workshop on Security Sector Reform







In October 2017, upon his assumption of leadership of the Philippine Army, Major General Rolando Bautista said in a statement: "Terrorist groups have had the luxury to reinvent themselves and create a new type of conflict. We have suddenly found ourselves forced out of the comforts of jungle warfare into urban areas with dense populations coupled with a barrage of terroristic social media propaganda—things our foot soldiers were not schooled in."

The Philippine Marines, for instance, has a lot of experience in counter-insurgency operations pursuing communist rebels and armed secessionist groups in the jungle. On the otherhand, urban warfare is an entirely new domain for the military.<sup>1</sup> Being drawn into urban warfare and engaging in propaganda war in social media is something that the Philippine military is not accustomed to.

The Marawi Siege—the boldness of its attack and how the conflict dragged on for months—has put pressure on military and security forces to rethink their preparedness in responding to the new kind of threat presented by violent extremism (VE).

Mr. Ola Almgren, UN Resident Coordinator in the Philippines had noted that VE is a "unique product of our time." Mr. Samuel Grunhard<sup>2</sup> cited what he called as the constantly shifting threat environment in the region and how the new terrorism is transnational by nature, necessitating responses that are transnational as well.

In other words, while terrorism is not something new, the kind of VE that nations face today—with its transnational character, its effective use of communications technology and social media—make it imperative to rethink conventional security approaches that has characterized counter-terrorism initiatives.

After the 9/11 attacks, the security sector has responded with a counter-terrorism approach that favors military, intelligence and law enforcement measures. Despite this heavy handed response, terror attacks have increased

1 Carmela Fonbuena. 08 October 2017. *New PH Army chief says changes needed after Marawi*. Rappler. Accessed through: <https://www.rappler.com/nation/184553-philippine-army-chief-rolly-bautista-changes-marawi>

2 Mr. Grunhard is an Assistant Secretary at the Attorney General's Department CVE Centre in Australia.





and have diversified in strategies and tactics—lone wolf attacks or attacking public areas that have no political and military significance, among others. Many see this as an impetus for reforms on security sector responses to VE.

A key leader in this recalibration of security approaches towards VE is Switzerland. It has developed a Foreign Policy Action Plan on Preventing Violent Extremism, that complements the military and security measures with an approach that “aims to address the direct and structural causes of violent extremism... foster the development of inclusive societies by cultivating the fundamental values of human rights, peace, tolerance, and respect for diversity and the principles of the rule of law.”<sup>3</sup>

As the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) has noted, “any approach which seeks to address Violent Extremism and Radicalisation that Lead to Terrorism (VERLT) should be holistic in nature, an understanding expressed as Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) and in some instances as Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) that contrasts with traditional hard security-based approaches known as Counter-Terrorism (CT) that focus primarily on increasing the technical capacity of security providers.”<sup>4</sup>

The workshop on security sector reform (SSR) adopts this thrust. The session was supported by DCAF, and was facilitated by Dr. Albrecht Schnabel, Head, DCAF Asia-Pacific Unit. The resource persons were Dr. Jennifer Santiago Oreta, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Security Reform Initiative; Dr. Aries A. Arugay, Associate Professor of the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (UP CSSP), in Diliman; and Dr. Mely Caballero-Anthony, Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS).

Dr. Schnabel rejected a myopic view of the security sector and explained that it is composed of both state actors and non-state actors that provide security, as well as those that oversee said security providers. He stressed that the security sector can properly fulfill its mandate only if it meets the norms of good security sector governance (SSG). These norms refer to general good governance

3 Tuemay Aregawi Desta. November 2016. *Preventing violent extremism: A new paradigm or evolving approach?* In á propos: The KOFF Peacebuilding Magazine, No. 148.

4 Eden Cole. 31 August 2017. Mapping Study on 'Strengthening OSCE's role in Central Asia: Combatting Violent Extremism by Applying Human Security Measures'. Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF): Geneva.







principles, e.g., accountability, efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency. It is also a requirement for security providers to be responsive and inclusive.

The reform involves the need for the security sector to fulfill those good governance principles and their acceptance that these are necessary consequences of the emergence of constantly changing threats and new security environments that countries need to adjust to.

### **“Hybrid Threat”**

Dr. Oreta focused her discussion on what she called as the inappropriateness of the “enemy-centered” traditional military framework which should not be used to address the modern threats facing the world today. In particular, the ASEAN security sector is dominantly framed from a traditional Westphalian doctrine of protecting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the state. On the other hand, Dr. Oreta noted that the realities of the current security issues no longer fit with the traditional framework. For one, the conflict has become more intrastate, where the fighters all belong to the same state. She then posed the question: “If the armed forces are mandated to protect the people, which people should it protect in case of an internal armed conflict?”

Dr. Oreta explained that military training, aligned with the Westphalian tradition, is enemy-centered and should not be used in addressing internal conflict. This is because it has contributed to human rights abuses, which, in turn, contributed to further radicalization and dissent, possibly feeding into the extremist narrative.

She described the kind of conflict the Philippines has been facing recently as a “hybrid threat,” where the adversary simultaneously employs a tailored mix of conventional, criminal warfare methods, terrorism, and criminal activities. They have also engaged in international solidarity actions, as well as propaganda wars, to generate support from sympathetic states and groups.

The military cannot address these threats without the rest of the security sector actors who must converge their efforts to formulate a cohesive and unified operational plan. She posed a question to the ASEAN states, asking them if they have their own national security plans and strategies, which are known, owned, and endorsed by the states and their people. She viewed this as essential to any attempt to deal with extremist groups.





Additionally, while the government has played a big role in addressing VE, she emphasized that the rest of society cannot and should not be compartmentalized by the policies of political leaders and institutions. Instead, Dr. Oreta advocated to start with people-to-people exchanges of information, particularly, of what works at the community level in terms of preventing VE.

Dr. Arugay discussed the opportunities in SSR, and the possibility of preventing VE through the framework of SSR and SSG, and their convergence. He explained that the opportunities to address PVE come from certain overlaps between PVE on one hand, and SSR-SSG on the other. He noted that, while both PVE and SSR require a comprehensive approach, the security framework must avoid politicization and militarization.

Dr. Caballero-Anthony elaborated on linking national efforts to advance SSR and PVE at the regional level. She reminded the participants that the ASEAN is already celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> year. Moreover, the norms that the ASEAN meant to promote include a just, democratic and tolerant ASEAN. While the goal is prosperity, the ASEAN community aspires to be caring and sharing. These are important values that can countervail the narrative of VE.

Dr. Caballero-Anthony said that ASEAN mechanisms exist to promote the regional norms, citing the regular ASEAN ministerial meetings on defense, law, and transnational crime as concrete examples. She suggested that security sector governance should be consciously considered in all of these meetings.

Likewise, the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children (ACWC), the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation (AIPR), and the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), are all part of the oversight mechanism that should be integral to the regional efforts to promote security sector governance.

## Other Issues

Some of the key issues that surfaced during the workshop include:

1. Addressing organized crime has a huge impact in CVE. Counterfeiting, human trafficking, illegal arms trade, illegal drugs trade, and kidnap for ransom are criminal activities that are inherently linked to criminal activities perpetrated by most terrorist groups. SSR in ASEAN should include strengthening multi-jurisdictional investigative abilities, law enforcement, and community policing, among others.





2. The state must foster transparency and accountability as it discharges its mandate to counter terrorism and to protect the rights and welfare of the people. The need for SSR and SSG arises from the effort of balancing these two equally important objectives. While the state needs to address serious threats to national security, such need does not legitimize state violence. The entire system of check and balance in government, and the civilian oversight are required to check possible abuses.
3. SSR and SSG ensures effectiveness and accountability of the security sector, and imbuing it with norms aligned with democratic principles and the observance of the rule of law and respect for human rights. In this manner, SSR and SSG become effective components to the PVE action plan of government.
4. Dr. Arugay also clarified the difference between VE and terrorism. When states address terrorism itself, some have opted for measures that impinge upon human rights and civil liberties. These violations are justified by claiming that they are trying to address terrorist attacks, rather than manifestations of VE. Nuancing of the approaches is required in addressing the two concepts because they are easily conflated through policy and operational procedures. He explained further that VE is the bigger phenomenon, with terrorism as merely its manifestation.

## Summary and Recommendations

The highlights of the breakout session include emphasis on SSR as an endeavor that all countries worldwide should be engaged in. It becomes a necessity particularly when countries are facing continuously evolving security environments and emerging threats, requiring adjustments in policies and governance.

Conventional approaches associated with the traditional military mindset is inadequate to address the current security threats.

The recommendations formulated by workshop participants were as follows:

1. Principles of good governance should be applied to the security sector. Reform brings the people closer to embodying these good governance





- principles. Marginalization, discrimination, and oppression of the people are avoided, which, in turn, assists in preventing VE.
2. Focus must be shifted to the professionalization of security institutions, e.g., ensuring that they are not made to perform tasks that they are not trained and/or mandated to do, and filling in governance gaps.
  3. Internal accountability mechanisms must be put in place.
  4. There must be a balance between effectiveness and accountability. Security provided by security providers should be within the context of their mandate, to everyone's satisfaction.
  5. A clear national security plan is necessary to guide security reform. Specifically, the security sector must know how to respond, change, and train in order for them to respond better to new challenges. All the actors, the state and the people, must be made aware of the security strategies that will be implemented.
  6. There must be a strong independent oversight over the security sector to remind all actors of the norms that should guide them with regards to the protection of human rights, women, civilians, children; and to ensure that they are respected nationwide, at all times, and not in a selective manner.
  7. The ASEAN countries must cooperate, with a regional perspective, and act with an awareness that one country's security problem is also the security problem of the others.





*Security Thought Leaders:*

*Dr. Jennifer Santiago Oreta, Dr. Aries A. Arugay, Dr. Mely Caballero-Anthony*

*Facilitator:*

*Dr. Albrecht Schnabel*







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  - ii. Ambassador Delia D. Albert
  - iii. Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo
  - iv. His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos
  - v. Undersecretary Catalino S. Cuy
- F. Conference Statement
- G. Synthesis
- H. Selected PVE Documents
  - i. Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism
  - ii. The European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy
  - iii. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014)
  - iv. The United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General
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## ANNEX A

### Rationale and Objectives

Building on the past initiatives of PCID such as the 2015 conference on radicalization in South East Asia co-organized with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), the University of the Philippines and the Mindanao State University, this year's conference aims:

1. To encourage the development of appropriate policies and standards, and adoption of good policies for action plans at national and regional levels;
2. To prevent violent extremism in ASEAN member states by strengthening local actors, particularly the women and the youth;
3. To engage local communities as critical partners in rehabilitation and reintegration initiatives, and monitoring and peace-building efforts;
4. To address the specific societal dynamics and drivers of radicalization to violence, and explore approaches to counter ideology, messaging and recruitment methods availed by extremist group and their propagandists to attract new recruits and incite violence;
5. To identify sustainable and proactive efforts for preventing support for violent extremism in areas where there is an emerging threat; and
6. To promote dialogue and discourse among political leaders, government officials, security analysts, peace advocates, civil society, academe, religious leaders, business leaders, and media, with particular attention to women and youth. The discourse should include stakeholders from ASEAN member states and partners from Mindanao's conflict-affected communities.

The conference is envisioned to elicit perspectives on the challenges posed by the evolving faith-based radicalization, and the extent of influence of violent extremist groups in the Philippines and in the ASEAN region. These perspectives provide a contextual framework for the ensuing assessment of identified challenges and other factors that strengthen or weaken the communities' resiliency. Such assessment underscores the need for establishing national action plans for ASEAN member states, as well as a regional action plan, for Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) that would effectively address radicalization of citizens, particularly women and youth.

The conference will enable the exchange of best practices and networking of organizations that focus on PVE and Countering Violent Extremism (CVE), allowing these organizations to adapt initiatives that have worked, with the aim of engaging local actors and strengthening their communities' resiliency. These initiatives could be the components of a region-wide PVE initiative.







## ANNEX B

### Program/Agenda

DAY ONE   Friday, September 22, 2017 THE STRATEGIC CONTEXT OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN SOUTHEAST ASIA	
08:30- 09:00	<b>REGISTRATION</b>
09:00- 09:30	<b>OPENING CEREMONIES</b> ASEAN Hymn Welcome Remarks  <b>Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo</b> President, Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)  <b>Ambassador Delia Domingo-Albert</b> Chair, ASEAN Society of the Philippines (ASP)  <b>Ambassador Ong Keng Yong</b> Executive Deputy Chairman, S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)  <b>Secretary Jesus G. Dureza</b> Secretary, Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
09:30- 10:00	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS</b> <b>His Excellency Fidel Valdez Ramos</b> Former President of the Republic of the Philippines
10:00- 10:30	<b>COFFEE AND TEA BREAK</b>
10:30- 11:30	<b>SESSION 1 PLENARY</b> <b>The Islamic State and Transnational Terrorism in Southeast Asia: Assessment of the Threat and Responses of Governments</b>
	<u>Plenary Chair:</u> <b>Dr. Clarita R. Carlos</b> Executive Director, Center for Political and Democratic Reform, Inc. (CPDRI) Former President, National Defense College of the Philippines  <u>Speakers:</u> <b>Undersecretary Catalino S. Cuy</b> Department of Interior and Local Government Philippine Leader for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)  <b>Secretary Delfin N. Lorenzana</b> Secretary, Department of National Defense, Philippines





10:30-11:30	<p><b>Mr. Ola Almgren</b> UN Resident Coordinator</p> <p><b>Mr. Samuel Grunhard</b> Assistant Secretary, Attorney-General's Department, CVE Centre, Australia</p> <p><b>Dr. Hanny Cueva Beteta</b> Regional Advisor on Governance, Peace and Security, UN Women</p> <p><b>Ms. Yenny Wahid</b> Director, Wahid Institute, Indonesia</p> <p><b>Dr. Rohan Gunaratna</b> Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), RSIS, Singapore</p>
11:30-12:30	<b>OPEN FORUM</b>
12:30-14:00	<b>SESSION 2 PLENARY</b> <b>Regional/Local Initiatives to the Prevention or Countering of Violent Extremism</b>
	<p><u>Plenary Chair:</u> <b>Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna</b> Head of Policy Studies, RSIS, Singapore</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u> <b>Mr. Asrul Daniel Ahmed</b> Senior Consultant Analyst, Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCT), Malaysia</p> <p><b>Mr. Noor Huda Ismail</b> Founder, Institute for International Peace Building, Indonesia</p> <p><b>Dr. Aurora Javate de Dios</b> Expert for Women, ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children</p> <p><b>Mr. Celakhan Pathan</b> Founding Member of Patani Forum, Security Analyst and Consultant Asia Conflict and Security Consulting Thailand</p> <p><b>Dr. Shashi Jayakumar</b> Head, Centre of Excellence for National Security, RSIS, Singapore</p>
15:30-15:45	<b>COFFEE AND TEA BREAK</b>





15:45- 17:30	<b>SEPARATE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON RADICALIZATION INTO VIOLENT EXTREMISM: Understanding the Mechanisms of Dissemination of Violent Extremist Ideology</b>
	<p><b><u>Women</u></b> Thought Leader 1: <b>Ms. Alissa Wahid</b> Founder and National Coordinator, GUSDURian Network, Indonesia</p> <p>Thought Leader 2: <b>Ms. Samira Gutoc Tomawis</b> Member, Ranao Rescue Team</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. Maria Lourdes Veneracion Rallonza</b> Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Ateneo de Manila University</p> <p><b><u>Academia</u></b> Thought Leader 1: <b>Dr. Francisco Lara, Jr.</b> Country Manager, International Alert, Philippines</p> <p>Facilitator : <b>Atty. Benedicto Bacani</b> Executive Director, Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG)</p> <p><b><u>Religious</u></b> Thought Leader 1: <b>Archbishop Antonio Ledesma</b> Archbishop, Cagayan de Oro, Philippines</p> <p>Though Leader 2: <b>Dr. Badlishah Sham Baharin</b> Professor, Universiti Putra Malaysia</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. Maszlee Malik</b> Assistant Professor, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia</p> <p><b><u>Business</u></b> Thought Leader 1: <b>Mr. Danny Chan</b> Regional Director, Global Safety and Security, Marriott International, Singapore</p> <p>Thought Leader 2: <b>Ms. Pranoti Surve</b> Global Intelligence Operations Manager, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Singapore</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. Federico Macaranas</b> Professor, Asian Institute of Management Executive Director, AIM Policy Center.</p> <p><b><u>Youth</u></b> Thought Leader 1: <b>Dr. Wendy Yee</b> Professor and Senior Lecturer, University of Malaya, Malaysia</p>





	<p>Thought Leader 2: <b>Mr. Rackchart Wong-Arthichart</b> Program Associate for Advocacy, Raks Thai Foundation</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Ms. Beverly Orozco</b> National Coordinator, Generation Peace Youth Network (GenPeace)</p> <p><b>Political</b> Thought Leader : <b>Governor Jesus Crispin Remulla</b> Province of Cavite, Philippines</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Ms. Karen Tañada</b> Executive Director, Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute</p> <p><b><u>SPECIAL BRIEFING WORKSHOP ON MARAWI</u></b></p> <p>Speaker 1: <b>Ambassador Macabangkit Lanto</b> Former Congressman, Lanao del Sur, Philippines</p> <p>Speaker 2: <b>Lt. Gen. Carlito Galvez, Jr.</b> Area Commander, Western Mindanao, Philippines</p> <p>Speaker 3: <b>Dr. Safrulla Dipatuan</b> Chairman, Bangsamoro Development Agency, Philippines</p> <p>Moderator: : <b>Undersecretary Austere Panadero</b> Undersecretary, Department of Interior and Local Government, Philippines</p>
18:30- 22:00	<b>WELCOME DINNER</b>





<b>DAY TWO   Saturday, September 23, 2017</b> <b>POTENTIAL INTERVENTIONS ON PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (PVE)</b> <b>IN ASEAN</b>	
09:00-09:15	<b>SYNTHESIS OF DAY 1 AND OVERVIEW OF DAY 2</b>  Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
09:15-10:45	<b>SESSION 3 PLENARY</b> <b>Countering Extremist Ideology: The Role of Government and Civil Society</b>  <u>Plenary Chair:</u> <b>Dr. Sam Chittick</b> Country Representative in the Philippines, The Asia Foundation  <u>Speakers:</u> <b>Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim</b> Executive Director, The Habibie Center, Indonesia  <b>Dr. Syafiq A. Mughni</b> Professor of Islamic Civilization, National Islamic University, Chairman, Muhammadiyah Central Board for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue, Indonesia  <b>Mr. Lutfi Hakim</b> Associate, Political Communications, IMAN Research Consulting  <b>Ms. Maria Ressa</b> President and CEO, Rappler  <b>Mr. Sunai Phasuk</b> Senior Researcher, Asia Division, Human Rights Watch, Thailand  <b>Mr. Laurence Lien</b> Co-founder and CEO, Asia Philanthropy Circle, Singapore  <b>Mr. Augusto Miclat, Jr.</b> Co-Founder, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Philippines
10:45-11:15	<b>COFFEE AND TEA BREAK</b>



11:15-12:30	<p><b>SESSION 4 PLENARY</b>  <b>Transformative Agents for Community Resiliency: Women, Religious Leaders, and Youth</b></p>
	<p><u>Plenary Chair:</u>  <b>Ms. Melinda Holmes</b>            Senior Adviser, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)            Program Manager, Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)</p> <p><u>Speakers:</u>  <b>Hon. Angkhana Neelapaijit</b>            Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Thailand</p> <p><b>Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa</b>            Founder and Chair, Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action, Sri Lanka</p> <p><b>Ms, Kamala Chandrakirana</b>            Coordinator, Koalisi Keadilan dan Pengungkapan Kebenaran (KKPK), Indonesia</p> <p><b>Prof. Samina Yasmeen</b>            Director, Center for Muslim States and Societies (CMSS), University of Western Australia</p> <p><b>Ms. Mra Sabai Nyun</b>            Program Director, Rakhine Thayaha Association, Myanmar</p> <p><b>Ms. Anisa Taha</b>            Coordinator, Noorus Salam – Central Mindanao</p> <p>Open Forum</p>
12:30-14:00	<p><b>LUNCH</b></p>
14:00-15:30	<p><b>SESSION 5 PLENARY</b>  <b>Panel on Specific PVE Strategies in ASEAN</b></p>
	<p><u>Plenary Chair:</u>  <b>Ambassador Ong Keng Yong</b>            Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore</p>



	<p><u>Speakers:</u></p> <p><b>Mr. Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah bin Sudiman</b> Associate Research Fellow, International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, RSIS , Singapore</p> <p><b>Ms. Jasmine Binti Mohamed Jawhar</b> Assistant Director, Research and Publications - South East Asia, Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Malaysia</p> <p><b>Dr. Aruna Gopinath</b> Professor, National Defense University, Malaysia</p> <p><b>Mr. Romadon Panjor</b> Editor, Deep South Watch, Thailand</p> <p><b>Ms. Amina Rasul Bernardo</b> President, Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)</p>
15:30- 15:45	<b>COFFEE AND TEA BREAK</b>
15:45- 16:30	<b>SEPARATE BREAKOUT SESSIONS ON CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS' POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE PVE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN</b>
	<p><u>Academia</u> Thought Leader 1: <b>Dr. Ichsan Malik</b> Conflict Resolution Facilitator, Samdhana Institute</p> <p>Thought Leader 2: <b>Dr. Jamhari Makruf</b> Advisor, Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat (PPIM), Indonesia</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. Carolyn Sobritchea</b> Chair, Technical Panel for Gender and Women's Studies Commission on Higher Education, Philippines</p> <p><u>Youth</u> Thought Leader 1: <b>Mr. Robi Sugara</b> Executive Director, Muslim Crisis Centre, Indonesia</p> <p>Thought Leader 2: <b>Ms. Theresa Fe Oliver</b> Youth Organizer and Training Officer, Panaghiusa Alang Sa Kaugalingnan ug Kalingkawasan (PASAKK), Inc.</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Mr. Marc Batac</b> Regional Liaison Officer, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Philippines</p>



**Women**

Thought Leader 1: **Ms. Rafia Bhulai**

Senior Programs Officer, Global Center on Cooperative Security, New York

Thought Leader 2: **Atty. Ma. Cecilia Jimenez- Damary**

UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Facilitator: **Dr. Socorro Reyes**

Regional Governance Adviser, Center for Legislative Development (CLD)

**Religious**

Thought Leader 1: **Rev. Fr. Joel Tabora S.J.**

President, Ateneo de Davao University

Thought Leader 2: **Mr. Shafqat Mehmood**

PAIMAN Alumni Trust, Islamabad, Pakistan

Facilitator: **Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa**

Head, Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme, S. Rajanratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore

**Political**

Thought Leader 1: **Hon. Rodolfo G. Biazon**

Former Senator, Philippines

Thought Leader 2: **Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan**

Municipality of Raja Buayan, Maguindanao, Philippines

Facilitator: **Dr. Nathan Gilbert Quimpo**

Associate Professor, Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Tsukuba

**Business**

Thought Leader 1: **Ms. Maria Aurora Geotina-Garcia**

Board Adviser, Women's Business Council-Philippines

Chairperson, Philippine Women's Economic Network

Thought Leader 2: **Mr. John Perrine**

Chairman, Unifrutti Group Philippines

Facilitator: **Atty. Ceferino Benedicto, Jr.**

Corporate Secretary, Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Industry (CCPI)







	<p><b><u>Security: SSG/SSR and PVE from a Regional Perspective</u></b></p> <p>Thought Leader 1 (Challenges): <b>Dr. Jennifer Santiago Oreta</b> Chairman, Board of Trustees, Security Reform Initiative (SRI)</p> <p>Thought Leader 2 (Opportunities): <b>Dr. Aries A. Arugay</b> Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines, Diliman</p> <p>Thought Leader 3 (The Way Forward): <b>Dr. Mely Caballero-Anthony</b> Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS),</p> <p>Facilitator: <b>Dr. Albrecht Schnabel</b> Head, Asia-Pacific Unit, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)</p>
17:00- 18:00	<b>SUMMING UP AND CLOSING REMARKS</b>
18:30- 21:30	<b>CLOSING DINNER</b>



## ANNEX C

### Participants List

COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Australia	Victoria Coakley	Counsellor, Head of Development Cooperation	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Australia	Samuel Grunhard	Attorney-General's Department Assistant Secretary	Countering Violent Extremism Centre
Australia	Lauren Malone	ASEAN Taskforce policy Leader	Department of the Prime Minister And Cabinet
Australia	Claire Smith	Australian Attorney-General's Department	Countering Violent Extremism Centre, Australian
Australia	Samina Yasmeen	Director	Centre for Muslim States and Societies (CMSS), University of Western Australia (UWA)
Cambodia	Sotheavy Srey	Executive Director	Alliance for Conflict Transformation (ACT) Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
Canada	Ernest Blake Bromley	President	Benefic Group Inc.
Canada	Toh Swee-Hin	Professor Emeritus	University of Alberta
Indonesia	Rahimah Abdulrahim	Executive Director	The Habibie Center
Indonesia	Kamala Chandrakirana	Executive Director	Koalisi Keadilan dan Pengungkapan Kebenaran (KKPK)
Indonesia	Siti Hanifah	Program Manager	The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN)
Indonesia	Noor Huda Ismail	Founder	Institute for International Peace Building
Indonesia	Mira Kusumarini	Executive Director	Civil Society Against Violent Extremism (C-SAVE)
Indonesia	Jamhari Makruf	Advisor	Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat (PPIM)
Indonesia	Ichsan Malik	Conflict Resolution Facilitator	Samdhana Institute
Indonesia	Syafiq A. Mughni	Chairman	Muhammadiyah Central Board for Interfaith and Intercultural Dialogue
Indonesia	Robi Sugara	Executive Director	Muslim Crisis Centre
Indonesia	Rizal Usman	Executive Director	Aceh Civil Society Task Force (ACSTF)
Indonesia	Alissa Wahid	Founder and National Coordinator	GUSDURian Network





Indonesia	Yenny Wahid	Director	Wahid Foundation
Japan	Nathan Quimpo	Associate Professor	University of Tsukuba
Japan	Susumu Takonai	Head of Political Section	Embassy of Japan
Malaysia	Asrul Daniel Ahmed	Senior Consultant Analyst	South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, (SEARCCT)
Malaysia	Kamarulzaman Askandar	Professor	Universiti Sains
Malaysia	Badlishah Sham Baharin	Professor	Universiti Putra
Malaysia	Mayu Chena	Coordinator	Patani Malay Civil Society Network for Peace
Malaysia	Aruna Gopinath	Professor	National Defense University
Malaysia	Lutfi Hakim	Associate for Political Communications	Iman Research Consulting
Malaysia	Jasmine Jawhar	Assistant Director, Research and Publications	South East Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT)
Malaysia	Arumugam Kalimuthu	Director	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict-SUARAM
Malaysia	Maszlee Malik	Assistant Professor	Universiti Islam Antarabangsa
Malaysia	Wendy Yee Mei Tien	Professor and Senior Lecturer	University of Malaya
Myanmar	Mra Sabai	Chair and Program Director	Rakhine Thayaha Association
Myanmar	Oo Aung Than	Executive Director	Thazin Community Development Initiative
Netherlands	Pascal Richard	Managing Adviser	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
Pakistan	Shafqat Mehmood	Chairperson	PAIMAN Alumni Trust
Philippines	Imelda Abano	Senior Communications Editor	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Surge Project
Philippines	Krystle Rose Abay		Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Jane Usop Abdul	Peace Program Officer	Bangsamoro Transition Commission
Philippines	James Abdul	Team Leader	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Wahida Abdulla	Chairperson	Gagandilan Mindanao Women



Philippines	Tirmizy E. Abdullah	Assistant Professor	Mindanao State University-Marawi
Philippines	Yunus J. Abdulmuin	President	Salam Engagement Group Philippines (SEGP)
Philippines	Isagani Abunda II	Communications and Advocacy	Initiatives for International Dialogue
Philippines	Ma. Carmina B. Acuña	Assistant Director General	National Security Council
Philippines	Wilma Addatu		UN Women Philippines North Cotabato
Philippines	Kerma Agga	MLGU President Sulu Councilor	Makilala Local Government Unit (MLGU)
Philippines	Maricel Aguilar	Programme Analyst	UN Women Philippines
Philippines	Alih Aiyub	WMSU Assistant Professor	Western Mindanao State University (WMSU) National Ulama Conference of the Philippines
Philippines	Yassen Ala	Chief Executive Officer	Filipino Students in Turkey (FST)
Philippines	Susan Albao		Miriam College - Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)
Philippines	Delia Domingo Albert	Chairperson	ASEAN Society of the Philippines
Philippines	Kanakan Aldahas	Regional Chairman	Mindanao Young Peacebuilders Organization
Philippines	Jarmaida Alfad		Noorus Salam – Zamboanga City
Philippines	Tu Alfonso	National Vice President	United Youth for Peace and Development (UNYPAD) Kutawato Multimedia Network
Philippines	Jaafar Malikol Ali	Mufti for Maguindanao	ARMM Regional Darul Ifta
Philippines	Soraidh B. Ali	Researcher	Stratsearch Foundation
Philippines	Guiamel Alim	Chairman	Consortium of Bangsamoro Civil Society (CBCS)
Philippines	Samer Allong	Administrative Officer	National Youth Commission
Philippines	Ola Almgren	UN Resident Coordinator	United Nations (UN)
Philippines	Lafayette Alonto	Executive Assistant	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Maria Grace Alma B. Amargo	Technical Assistant	Anti-Terrorism Council-Program Management Center, Office of the President
Philippines	Cristel Amarillo	Social Media Intern	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia

Philippines	Almadin Amin		Association of Youth for Peace and Development
Philippines	Arlene Sevilla-Aming	Director, External Affairs	Tawi-Tawi Alliance of Civil Society Organizations - TACOS, Inc.
Philippines	Kausar Aming	Member	Tarbilang Foundation, Inc.
Philippines	Taharudin Ampatuan	Chief, Bangsamoro Peace Support Division	Armed Forces of the Philippines Peace and Development Office
Philippines	Zamzamin Ampatuan	Mayor	Municipality of Rajah Buayan Maguindanao
Philippines	Susana Salvador Anayatin	Member	Bangsamoro Transition Commission
Philippines	Diosita Andot	Undersecretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Cassandra Angeles	Researcher	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Belen Anota	Member - Political Committee	ASEAN Society of the Philippines
Philippines	Apolonio Anota, Jr.	Executive Director	Nayong Pilipino Foundation, Inc.
Philippines	Marjorie Apurado		Mindanao Development Authority
Philippines	Patricia Arcelo	Technical Assistant	Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines
Philippines	Jan Chavez-Arceo	Lieutenant Colonel	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Armand Arevalo	Law Education Specialist	University of the Philippines Institute for the Administration of Justice
Philippines	Aries Arugay	Associate Professor	University of the Philippines - Department of Political Science
Philippines	Maira Asilin		Noorus Salam-Zamboanga City
Philippines	Rolando B. Asuncion	Assistant Secretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Caesar Atienza	Member - Board of Trustees, Senior Advisor South Asia, Sub regional Economic Cooperation	ASEAN Society of the Philippines
Philippines	Theresita V. Atienza	Vice President For Academic Affairs and Dean	National Defense College of The Philippines
Philippines	Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado	Vice Chairperson	House of Representatives, Defense Committee
Philippines	Benedicto Bacani	Executive Director	Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG)

Philippines	Ibrahim Badiee	Project Officer	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Philippines	Dayang Karna M. Bahidjan	Project Officer/ Community Organizer	Women Engaged in Action on Resolution 1325 (WE Act 1325)
Philippines	Kay Balajadia		University of the Philippines (UP) Women Lawyers' Group
Philippines	Rommel C. Banlaoi	Chairman of the Board & Executive Director	Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research (PIPVTR)
Philippines	Mariam Barandia	Executive Director	Kapamamagopa Inc (KI)
Philippines	Marc Batac	Regional Liaison Officer	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), Philippines
Philippines	Cynthia Rose Bautista	Vice-President for Academic Affairs	University of the Philippines
Philippines	Emmanuel T. Bautista	Undersecretary/ Executive Director	Cabinet Cluster on Security, Justice and Peace, Office of the President
Philippines	Ceferino Benedicto Jr.	Corporate Secretary	Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Industry (CCPI)
Philippines	Reinna Bermudez	Deputy Division Chief	Commission on Human Rights
Philippines	Gian Franco Bernardino	Intern	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Romeo Bernardo	Vice Chairman	Foundation for Economic Freedom
Philippines	Grace Lacap-Bernardo		Kollaboratory Media Inc.
Philippines	Ibba Rasul-Bernardo		Kollaboratory Media Inc.
Philippines	Amina Rasul Bernardo	President	Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)
Philippines	Romina R. Bernardo	Court Attorney	Supreme Court of the Philippines
Philippines	Rodolfo Biazon	Former Senator of the Republic of the Philippines	
Philippines	Llewellyn R Binasoy GSC PA	Chief of Staff, Civilian - Military Operations, J7	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Edgar Bullecer	Chief Operations Officer	Paglas Corporation
Philippines	Glenn Jun C. Calambuhay	Eastern Mindanao Command	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Charles Calima	Security Consultant	Philippine National Police
Philippines	Angel Calvo	President	Mindanao Peaceweavers Zamboanga-Basilan Integrated Development Alliance (ZABIDA)

Philippines	Abdurrahman T. Canacan	Chancellor	Mindanao State University -General Santos City
Philippines	Sarip Ellen Cancio	Committee Secretary	House of Representatives
Philippines	Julienne Caringal-Guianan	Executive Assistant III	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Philippines	Clarita Carlos	Executive Director	Center for Political and Democratic Reform, Inc. (CPDRI)
Philippines	Ramon C. Casiple	Executive Director	Institute for Political and Electoral Reform (IPER)
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Philippines	Lucrecia Cayakap		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Jamel R. Cayamodin	Shari'A Lawyer College Secretary Assistant Professor	University of the Philippines Institute of Islamic Studies
Philippines	Sam Chittick	Country Representative in the Philippines	The Asia Foundation
Philippines	Arvin Chua	Director	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Sherin Consolacion	Administrative Office V	Mindanao State University - Maguindanao
Philippines	Theresa Corcoro	Dean of Graduate Studies	Notre Dame University Graduate School
Philippines	Renia C. Corocoto	Director, Strategic Studies Branch	National Security Council
Philippines	Udjie Cosain		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Milagros Isabel Cristobal	Assistant Secretary	Department of Agrarian Reform
Philippines	Nanette Cuy		Department of the Interior and Local Government
Philippines	Catalino S. Cuy	Undersecretary Philippine Leader for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)	Department of Interior and Local Government
Philippines	Manuel Dalipe	Defense Committee	House of Representatives
Philippines	Suzanne Elizabeth Damman	Country Representative/ Senior Programme Manager	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Philippines	Maisara Dandamun-Latiph	Commissioner	Bangsamoro Transition Commission
Philippines	Mariam P. Daud	Executive Director	Muslim Mindanao Halal Board
Philippines	Aurora Javate De Dios	Expert for Women	ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children
Philippines	Mark Delarea	Student	Lyceum of the Philippines Cavite
Philippines	Gerald Delgado	Project Officer	5GT
Philippines	Gennessy Detubio	Program Manager	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
Philippines	Wendel Diangcalan	Deputy Executive Director	Bangsamoro Development Agency
Philippines	Hanan Diangcalan		Noorus Salam – Cotabato City
Philippines	Raima Dimaampao	Project Coordinator	Mindanao State University Marawi Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (AMDF)
Philippines	Calil G. Dimangadap		National Commission on Muslim Filipino-NCR
Philippines	Mohaledin Ross Dimaukom	Project Officer	Forum Civil Peace Service / forumZFD
Philippines	Ma Viktoria Louissa Diosana	Technical Assistant	Mindanao Development Authority
Philippines	Safrullah Dipatuan	Chairman	Bangsamoro Development Agency
Philippines	Mohamad B. Dipatuan	Program Officer	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Abdel Jamal R. Disangcopan	Law Reform Specialist III	University of the Philippines Law Center - Institute of Government and Law Reform
Philippines	Arlene Donaire	Membership Committee Head	Kennedy School of Government Alumni Association
Philippines	Michael Dumamba	Secretariat Officer	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Philippines	Rolando C. Dumawa	Head, RSSC, AFPETDC	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Jesus G. Dureza	Secretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Esmael W. Ebrahim	Executive Director	Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)
Philippines	Rosalyn Echem	Director, Gender Research and Resource Center (GRRC)	Western Mindanao State University College of Liberal Arts
Philippines	Director Camad Edres	NCR Director	National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF





Philippines	Jenny Lind Elmaco	Peace and Security Specialist	Marie Curie Association
Philippines	Nor-Ain M. Hadji Esmail		Mindanao State University – Marawi City
Philippines	Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr.	National Security Adviser Secretary	National Security Council
Philippines	Virgilio Espineli	Security Consultant	San Miguel Corporation
Philippines	Roberto Q. Estioko AFP (Ret.) Phd.	President	National Defense College of the Philippines
Philippines	Alma Evangelista	Senior Consultant	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Philippines	Amparo Pamela H. Fabe	Senior Fellow	Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research
Philippines	Krister Fahlstedt	Resident Coordinator in the Philippines	United Nations
Philippines	Tatine Faylona		Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies (CPCS)
Philippines	Regina May Francisco	Intern	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Sarah Gabriel	Intern	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia
Philippines	Jana Jill Gallardo	Peace Program Officer V	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Sittie Janine Gamao	Program Coordinator	Coalition of Moro Youth Movement
Philippines	Dorothea Balasbas Gancayco	Junior Partner	Gancayco Balasbas & Associates Law Offices
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Philippines	Maria Aurora Geotina-Garcia	Board Adviser	Women's Business Council-Philippines
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Philippines	Maria Theresa Gonzales	Office of Congresswoman Ruby Sahali	House of Representatives
Philippines	Danica Gonzalez		Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)
Philippines	Rey Leonardo B Cuerrero	Commander, Eastern Mindanao Command Lieutenant General	Armed Forces of the Philippines



Philippines	Ida Gerri Guevara	Intern	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia
Philippines	Sapia Guialel		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Chuyie Kaye Guibelondo	Director	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Mary Joyce Z. Guinto-Sali Ph.D.	Chancellor	Mindanao State University, Tawi-tawi
Philippines	Judy Gulane	Team Leader, Conflict Alert	International Alert
Philippines	Ling Gumander		UN Women North Cotabato
Philippines	Samira Gutoc Tomawis	Member	Ranao Rescue Team
Philippines	Melodina D. Hairol	Vice President	Noorus Salam-Tawi Tawi
Philippines	Amil Almadar Hasim	President	Association of Youth for Peace and Development
Philippines	Web Hassan		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Peter Hazdra	Programme Manager	European Union Philippines
Philippines	Dickson Hermoso	Assistant Secretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Aileen Marie Hualde		UN Women Maguindanao
Philippines	Barilea Darnel Ian		City Employment Center, Inc.
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Philippines	Timothy A. Ijiran	President	Islamic Development Bank Graduates Association
Philippines	Charina Izquierdo-Isahac	Chairwoman	Bansag Babai Inc. Noorus Salam
Philippines	Darwisa Jakiram		Noorus Salam – Sulu
Philippines	Iona Jalijali	Project Manager	Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Philippines	Fatima Jauhari		Noorus Salam Tawi-Tawi
Philippines	Jameel Jaymalin	Executive Director	Quezon City Muslim Consultative Council
Philippines	Corazon Fernando Jaymalin	Chair	Trader



Philippines	Jesus Celeste	Vice Chairperson, Defense Committee	House of Representatives
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Philippines	Cecilia E. Jimenez- Damary	Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPS)	United Nations
Philippines	Charithie B Joaquin	Professor	National College of Defense of the Philippines
Philippines	Fort Jose	Executive Director	Blas F. Ople Policy Center
Philippines	Ferdinand Jovita	Director	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Mashur B. Jundam	Convenor	Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy
Philippines	Nikki Jurisprudencia	Program Coordinator and Research Associate	Miriam College - Women and Gender Institute (WAGI)
Philippines	Al-Qatar Kamlian	Officer	Philippine Army
Philippines	Bainon Karon	RCBW Chairperson Moro National Liberation Front Leader	Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women-ARMM
Philippines	Chetan Kumar	Senior Advisor	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Philippines	Clarisa Kuong	State Prosecutor Task Force Marawi	Department of Justice
Philippines	Herminal Kurais		Noorus Salam – Zamboanga City
Philippines	Gregorio Francisco C. Lagrosa		Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia
Philippines	Macabangkit B. Lanto	Former Congressman	
Philippines	Francisco Lara	Country Manager	International Alert
Philippines	Lerio Latumbo	International Center for Peace in Mindanao and Action Asia Secretariat	Balay Mindanao and Mindanao Peaceweavers
Philippines	Elizabeth Laurico	Area Manager - North Cotabato	Balay Mindanao Kutawato Multimedia Network
Philippines	Jennifer Ann Lazo		Women's Business Council Philippines, Inc. (WOMENBIZPH)



Philippines	Antonio Ledesma	Archbishop	Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro
Philippines	Yusuf Ledesma	Spokesperson	Balik Islam Unity Congress
Philippines	Olivier Gerges Lernet	Focal Point for Support for Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE)	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
Philippines	Marwil Llasos		Institute of International Legal Studies of University of the Philippines Law Center
Philippines	Sittie Almairah Lomondot		Ranao Peoples Peace Table
Philippines	Halil Lucman		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Omuhani Mabandes		Noorus Salam – Manila
Philippines	Amena Macabero	Chairperson Professor	Noorus Salam - Lanao del Sur King Faisal Center for Islamic, Arabic Studies, MSU, Marawi City
Philippines	Sopia Maguid	Chief Administrative Officer	Mindanao State University -Maguindanao
Philippines	Arlene Mahinay	Head of Programmes	VSO Philippines
Philippines	Celeste Mallari	Professor	Institute of International Legal Studies University of the Philippines
Philippines	Sahara S. Mama		International Alert
Philippines	Jesus Manangquil Jr.	Commander, Joint Task Force NCR	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Omar Mandia		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
Philippines	Yusoph Mangandog		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Florence Y. Manikan	Political Affairs Officer Office of Congresswoman Ruby Sahali	House of Representatives
Philippines	Aida Jean Manipon	National Coordinator	UN Women Philippines
Philippines	Alambai Mantawil		UN Women North Cotabato
Philippines	Darwin Manubag	Faculty, College of Arts and Social Sciences	Mindanao State University- Iligan Institute of Technology
Philippines	Ma. Christina Marfil	National Officer	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Philippines	Eric John Matela	Senior Programme Officer	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Philippines	Jann Ericko Medina	Kollab Editorial Team	Kollaboratory Media Inc.
Philippines	Hamida Menor		Noorus Salam – Lanao de Sur
Philippines	Emily Mercado	Program Manager	European Union Philippines
Philippines	Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI	Chairman	Kusog Mindanaw
Philippines	Augusto Miclat Jr.	Executive Director and Co-Founder	Initiatives for International Dialogue Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Philippines
Philippines	Raisah Mocsin	Senior Planning Officer	Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women
Philippines	Anwar Mohamad		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Usman A. Mohammad	LeadCom	Movement of Young Peacebuilder in Mindanao (MOVE) & Bangsamoro Young Leadership Program (BYLP)
Philippines	Sittie Nurdayhanna Mohamad		Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (AMDF)
Philippines	Sittisham D. Mohammad	President	Noorus Salam - Zamboanga
Philippines	Casiano C. Monilla	Commander, Brigadier General Training and Doctrine Command	Philippine Army
Philippines	Camilo Miguel Montesa	Team Leader Programme Manager Resilience and Peace Building Unit	The United Nations Development Programme
Philippines	Macrina A. Morados	Dean	University of the Philippines – Institute of Islamic Studies
Philippines	Jennie Claire Mordeno	Director	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Jehanne Mutin	Chairperson	Regional Commission on Bangsamoro Women-ARMM
Philippines	Jaydeen Fae Nabua	Technical Staff	Mindanao Development Authority
Philippines	Alnhaguib S. Nassal		Mindanao Alliance for Reform and Empowerment
Philippines	Jay G. Nuarin	Peace Program Officer IV	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Theresa Fe Oliver	Youth Organizer and Training Officer	Panaghiusa Alang Sa Kaugalingnan ug Kalingkawasan (PASAKK), Inc.
Philippines	Daniel Ong	Project Manager	Forum Civil Peace Service

Philippines	Alaine Grace B. Opilas		Lyceum of the Philippines University Cavite
Philippines	Susan Ople	Member - Political Committee	Blas F. Ople Policy Center and Training Institute
Philippines	Jennifer Santiago Oreta	Chairman and Board of Trustees	Security Reform Initiative
Philippines	Beverly Orozco	National Coordinator	Generation Peace Youth Network
Philippines	Rasid M. Paca	Vice President	Mindanao State University, Marawi Campus
Philippines	Ma. Cecilia Pacis	National Security Specialist IV	National Security Council (NSC)
Philippines	Pamela Ann S. Padilla-Salvan	Director	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Vanessa Pallarco	Executive Assistants	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Austere Panadero	Undersecretary	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Philippines	Vanessa Panes	Project Manager	Leverage International
Philippines	Teresita Panganiban	Congressional Staff	House of Representatives
Philippines	Marilyn I. Pangilinan	Administrator	Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict Southeast Asia
Philippines	Gaffar Panotolan		National Commission on Muslim Filipinos - NCMF
Philippines	Ma. Cecilia D. Papa	Assistant Secretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Paul Michael Paraguya	Researcher	Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)
Philippines	Mohammed Yousof Pasigan	Mufti	National Ulama Conference of the Philippines
Philippines	John Perrine	Chairman	Unifrutti Group
Philippines	Celso Idago Pestaño	Senior Police Assistant	Philippine National Police
Philippines	Iris Kim Pestaño		Philippine National Police
Philippines	Robin Pettyfer	Trustee	PEACETECH Incorporated
Philippines	Mara Romero Poblete	Senior Administrative Assistant III	Department of the Interior and Local Government
Philippines	Gerry Porta	Senior Management Specialist	U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)
Philippines	Melinda A. Prieto	Program Coordinator	Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)

Philippines	Ariel Querubin PN Retired	Vice President & Special Assistant to the President and Chief Operations Officer	San Miguel Corporation
Philippines	Arnold Quiapo	Security Consultant	San Miguel Corporation
Philippines	Aljan Quilates	Project Development Officer III	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza	Assistant Professor	Ateneo De Manila University
Philippines	Fidel Valdez Ramos	Former President of the Republic of the Philippines	
Philippines	Fatima Irene Rasul	KFI Executive Director WIIS Trustee	Kasannangan Foundation Inc (KFI) AFP Command and General Staff College Foundation Inc. Women in International Security - WIIS (Phil)
Philippines	Santanina Rasul	Former Senator	Magbassa Kita Foundation, Inc.
Philippines	Amroussi T. Rasul	Treasurer	University of the Philippines Alumni Association
Philippines	Salma Pir Rasul	Program Director	Islamic Law Studies University of the Philippines Law Center
Philippines	Maria Ressa	President and Chief Executive Officer	Rappler
Philippines	Socorro Reyes	Regional Governance Adviser	Center for Legislative Development (CLD)
Philippines	Ronald Paz Rocha		International Alert
Philippines	Saturnina Rodi	Faculty	Mindanao State University
Philippines	Christine Roque	Kollab Editorial Team	Kollaboratory Media Inc.
Philippines	Ruby M. Sahali	Congresswoman	House of Representatives District Representative Tawi-Tawi, Lone District
Philippines	Karlo Samson		Kollaboratory Media Inc.
Philippines	Musa M. Sanguila	Director	Pakigdait Incorporated
Philippines	Kathereen Jane Sapungen	Planning and Information Officer	Philippine National Commission for UNESCO
Philippines	Benedikt Seemann	Resident Representative	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) Philippines

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Philippines	Alvaro O. Senturias Jr.	Pastor	United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Davao
Philippines	Lila Shahani	Secretary General	UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines
Philippines	Anna Marcelita C. Shakil	Secretary/Trustee	Noorus Salam-Metro Manila
Philippines	Neil Simon S. Silva	Law Reform Specialist	University of the Philippines Law Center
Philippines	Joe Dee Simbulan	Director of Loss Prevention	Marriott Manila
Philippines	Bai Soraya Q. Sinsuat	Chancellor	Mindanao State University -Maguindanao
Philippines	Allan Grand A. Sobrepeña	Development Management Officer	University of the Philippines. National College of Public Administration and Governance
Philippines	Carolyn Sobritchea	Chair	Commission on Higher Education, Philippines Technical Panel for Gender and Women's Studies
Philippines	Reuel Sorilla, AFP Ret.	Consultant	San Miguel Corporation
Philippines	Romina Sta. Clara	Deputy Programme Manager Mindanao Peace & Development	International Organization for Migration (IOM)
Philippines	Quezona Sulog		Noorus Salam – Lanao del Norte
Philippines	Joel Tabora, S.J.	President	Ateneo De Davao
Philippines	Sagola Tago	President	Noorus Salam – Marawi City
Philippines	Anisa Taha	Coordinator	Noorus Salam- Central Mindanao
Philippines	Normalah Taher		Noorus Salam- Lanao del Sur
Philippines	Nabil A. Tan	Undersecretary	Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP)
Philippines	Karen Tañada	Executive Director	Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute
Philippines	Sukarno D. Tanggol	Chancellor	Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology (IIT)
Philippines	Rohaida Taning		Noorus Salam-Zamboanga City
Philippines	Abdulwakil Tanjilil	Deputy Grand Mufti	Darul Ifta - Zamboanga
Philippines	Abdel Fattah Tanog	Secretary	Salam Engagement Group Philippines (SEGP)



Philippines	Parisya Taradji	Former Undersecretary	Magbassa Kita Foundation, Inc. (MKFI) Executive Director Department of Social Welfare and Development
Philippines	Ajjul Adam Taradji, PhD	Retired General	
Philippines	Carolina Tarang	Chairperson on Health	Qudwaton Nisah Muslimat Noorus Salam
Philippines	Dulfie Tobias-Shalim	Former Director	Department of Social Welfare and Development
Philippines	Rizza C. Torrado	National Program Officer - Support to the Bangsamoro Peace Process and Transitional Justice	UN Women Philippines
Philippines	Shiloah Grace M. Torrechiva	Member - Board of Trustees	ASEAN Society of the Philippines
Philippines	Jun Torres	Market Group Leader	SyCip Gorres Velayo & Company
Philippines	Raymund Train		Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)
Philippines	Jonathan Ureta	Head, K9 Department	Philippine National Police
Philippines	Arlene Lapuz Ureta	Senior Vice President and General Counsel	Metrobank
Philippines	Jamaica Uy	Analyst	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Remigio Valdez	Security Consultant	San Miguel Corporation
Philippines	Manuel De Vera	Executive Director, AIM-TeaM Energy Center for Bridging Leadership	Asian Institute of Management
Philippines	Noel E. Vestuir	Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil Military Operations, J7	Armed Forces of the Philippines
Philippines	Wilfrido V. Villacorta	Former Philippine Ambassador to ASEAN	ASEAN Society of the Philippines
Philippines	Meghann Villanueva	Executive Director	PeaceTech Incorporated
Philippines	Mohammad Shuaib Yacob	Executive Director	Bangsamoro Development Agency
Philippines	Jose Luis U. Yulo Jr.	President	Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands
Singapore	Mely Caballero-Anthony	Associate Professor and Head	Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

Singapore	Danny Chan	Regional Director for Global Safety and Security	Marriott International
Singapore	Stacey Choe	Director	Asia Philanthropy Circle
Singapore	Rohan Gunaratna	Head	International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR), RSIS
Singapore	Shashi Jayakumar	Head	Centre of Excellence for National Security, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore	Laurence Lien	Co-founder and CEO	Asia Philanthropy Circle
Singapore	Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa	Head	Studies In Inter-Religious Relations In Plural Societies Programme, RSIS
Singapore	Wen Jie Joshua Ng	Senior Analyst	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore	Kumar Ramakrishna	Head of Policy Studies	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore	Muhamamd Saiful Sudiman	Associate Research Fellow	International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Singapore	Pranoti Surve	Global Intelligence Operations Manager	Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Singapore	Ngiek Lian Teng	Chief Executive Officer	APC Target Asset Management
Singapore	Helen Yeo		Marriott Inc.
Singapore	Ambassador Ong Keng Yong	Executive Deputy Chairman	S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
Sri Lanka	Visaka Dharmadasa	Founder and Chair	Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing In Action
Switzerland	Albrecht Schnabel	Head, Asia-Pacific Unit,	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF)
Thailand	Rackchart Wong-Arthichart	Program Associate for Advocacy	Raks Thai Foundation
Thailand	Hanny Cueva Beteta	Regional Advisor on Governance, Peace and Security	UN Women
Thailand	Amporn Marddent	Lecturer, Cultural Studies program, Institute of Liberal Arts	Walailak University, Thailand
Thailand	Aung Khaing Min	Executive Director	Progressive Voice
Thailand	Angkhana Neelapaijit	Commissioner	National Human Rights Commission

Thailand	Romadon Panjor	Editor	Deep South Watch
Thailand	Don Pathan	Founding Member	Patani Forum and Associate, Asia Conflict and Security Consulting
Thailand	Sunai Phasuk	Senior Researcher	Human Rights Watch
Thailand	Chalida Tajaroensuk	Director	People's Empowerment Foundation (PEF)
Thailand	Simon Woell	Regional Focal Point	United Nations Development Programme
Timor Leste	Afnan Zulima Bazher	Student	Peace Center
United States of America	Rafia Bhulai	Senior Programs Officer	Global Center on Cooperative Security, New York
United States of America	Keith Doxtater	Chief of Party	ASEAN-US Partnership for Good Governance, Equitable and Sustainable Development and Security
United States of America	Melinda Holmes	ICAN Senior Adviser WASL Program Manager	International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)
United States of America	Vincente Rafael	Professor	University of Washington

## INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, MANILA BASED

COUNTRY	NAME	EMBASSY
Australia	Clare Duffield	Australian Embassy, Manila Counsellor
Australia	Joshua House	Australian Embassy, Manila First Secretary (Political)
Australia	Emily Rainey	Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Bangladesh	Md Arafat Rahman	Embassy of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Manila Third Secretary
Denmark	Amanda Brinkloev Jensen	The Royal Danish Embassy, Manila
Indonesia	David Barus	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Manila First Secretary
Indonesia	Fredi Yulianto	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, Manila
Iran	Masoud Mortazav	Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Deputy of Mission
Japan	Hiromichi Matsuo	Embassy of Japan, Manila First Secretary

South Korea	Edwin Daryl Dy	Embassy of the Republic of Korea, Manila Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Manila
Libya	Alaeddin Elsheikhi	Embassy of Libya, Manila Secretary
Netherlands	Ernesto Braam	Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Manila Counsellor/Regional
Netherlands	Jaco Beerends	Netherlands Embassy Deputy Head of Mission
Netherlands	Maria Christina Theresia Derckx	Netherlands Embassy, Manila Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Netherlands	Alexander Nishimwe	Netherlands Embassy, Manila
Netherlands	René Pals	Netherlands Embassy, Manila
Netherlands	Arnold Van Der Zanden	Netherlands Embassy, Manila
Netherlands	Arjen Vogel	Netherlands Embassy, Manila
Netherlands	Lauren Ter Borg	Netherlands Embassy, Manila
New Zealand	Janina Noelle Centeno	New Zealand Embassy, Manila
New Zealand	David Strachan	New Zealand Embassy Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
New Zealand	Noelle Velasquez	New Zealand Embassy, Manila
Norway	William Hovland	Royal Norwegian Embassy, Manila
Norway	Nikki Delfin	Royal Norwegian Embassy, Manila
Qatar	Alkubaisi Abdulla	Embassy of the State of Qatar, Manila Diplomat
Qatar	Nourian Ahmed	Embassy of the State of Qatar, Manila
Saudi Arabia	Abdulhussein Kashim	Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Manila
Saudi Arabia	Majed S.M Bin Showeil	Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia Manila Counselor
Singapore	Kok Li Peng	Embassy of Singapore, Manila Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
South Africa	Marthinus Slabber	Embassy of the Republic of South Africa, Manila Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Spain	Malena Vaca	Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID)
Spain	Yolanda Rodríguez	Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID)
Spain	Pedro Juan Palou Garcia	Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID)
Spain	Juan Pita	Agencia Española de Cooperacion Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID)
Spain	Luis Antonio Calvo Castaño	Embassy of Spain, Manila Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary



Switzerland	Samuel Cobbi	Embassy of the Swiss Confederation, Manila
Switzerland	Ariane Ernst	Embassy of the Swiss Confederation
Switzerland	Andrea Reichlin	Embassy of the Swiss Confederation Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Thailand	Siphiromya Urawee	Royal Thai Embassy, Manila
United States of America	Theresa Grantham	Embassy of the United States of America (USA), Manila Political Officer
United Kingdom	Rupert Compston	Embassy of the United Kingdom, Manila Second Secretary





## ANNEX D

### Speakers and Moderators

#### Opening Ceremonies

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Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo is the President of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID). She is a member of the Board of Regents of the Mindanao State University (MSU). A member of the Steering Committee of the Southeast Asian network of CSOs against violent extremism, she also serves as Trustee of The Magbassa Kita Foundation, Inc (MKFI), the National Movement for Free Elections, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation and a member of the Friends of Peace headed by Cardinal Orlando Quevedo. She has written and edited several books on the Mindanao conflict, Islam and democracy.

She was a member of the Philippine Cabinet under former President Fidel V. Ramos, as Presidential Advisor on Youth Affairs, appointed concurrently as the first Chair of the National Youth Commission (NYC), which she organized. She has served as Commissioner of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women representing Muslims, Director of the Board of the Philippine National Oil Corporation (PNOC), the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) and Founding Director of the Local Government Guarantee Corporation (LGCC). She recently served as a Board Member of the Mindanao Development Authority (MinDA).

In recognition of her work to strengthen democracy, she was awarded "Muslim Democrat of the Year 2007" by the Center for Study of Islam and Democracy and cited as one of the World's 500 Most Influential Muslims, 2017 by the Jordan Royal Islamic Strategic Studies Centre.



**MS. AMINA RASUL-BERNARDO**

President

Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)

Ambassador Delia Domingo Albert is the first woman career diplomat to become Secretary (Minister) of Foreign Affairs in Asia. She represented the Philippines in Switzerland, Romania, Hungary, the Federal Republic of Germany and the Commonwealth of Australia.

As Chair of the United Nations Security Council in 2004 she introduced the agenda "The Role of Civil Society in Post-Conflict Peacebuilding".

She attended the University of the Philippines, the Institute of International Studies in Geneva, the Diplomatic Institute in Salzburg, Boston University Overseas in Bonn, the J.F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, among others.

The Philippine Women's University conferred on her Doctor of Humanities, honoris causa for building a gender-fair society and was awarded "Most Distinguished Alumna of the University of the Philippines in 2012.

For her meritorious and exceptional service to the country she was conferred the Order of Sikatuna rank of Datu and was given the title of "Bai-A-Rawatun sa Pilimpinas" for assisting Muslim women in their search for peace and development. She received the Knight's Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit with Star (BundesVerdienstKreuz) from the Federal Republic of Germany and the single award to celebrate 70 years of Philippine-Australia relations in 2016 from the Australian government.

Ambassador Albert is a member of the advisory board of the Institute for Cultural Diplomacy in Berlin; the Asian Institute of Management; and the Global Summit of Women. She is the founding chair of Business and Professional Women Philippines (Makati Chapter) Diwata: Women in Resource Development and adviser to the Filipina CEOs Circle.



**AMBASSADOR DELIA ALBERT**

Chair

ASEAN Society - Philippines (ASP)





**AMBASSADOR ONG  
KENG YONG**

Executive Deputy Chairman

S.Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies (RSIS)

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Concurrently, he is Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Ambassador Ong also serves as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF). He was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from 2011 to 2014 and served as Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia from January 2003 to January 2008. He started his diplomatic career in 1979 and was posted to the Singapore Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United States of America. He was Singapore's High Commissioner to India and concurrently Ambassador to Nepal from 1996 to 1998. From September 1998 to December 2002, he was Press Secretary to then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong. At the same time, he held senior appointments in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the People's Association in Singapore. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore. Ambassador Ong graduated from the University of Singapore with a LLB (Hons) and the Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA) with a MA in Arab Studies.



**HON. JESUS G. DUREZA**

Secretary

Office of the Presidential  
Adviser on the Peace  
Process (OPAPP)

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus G. Dureza previously headed the government peace office from January 2006 to June 2008. Prior to his stint as peace adviser, Dureza has been a recognized personality in peace and development, known for taking part in the two most challenging peace tables. He chaired the government negotiating panel on the resumption of talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front from February 2001 to May 2003. He also served in the government panel on negotiations with the communist groups as adviser and spokesperson.

He held several government positions that advocated Mindanao's strategic development. He was appointed twice as the point person of Mindanao under the Office of the President – first as Presidential Assistant for Mindanao in 1998 and second as Presidential Adviser on Mindanao in 2009. He led for two terms the Mindanao Economic Development Council in 1998 and in 2001. In 2006, he was named as the Development Champion of the envisioned Mindanao Super Region. Later on, he presided the newly-formed Mindanao Development Authority in 2010.

As the chairperson of Mindanao Development Authority, he ensured the participation of Mindanao and Palawan in the Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines – East Asian Growth Area (BIMP-EAGA). Dureza represented the country in the treaty signing of this strategic alliance between the four southeast Asian nations.

Before embarking into public service, Dureza was a veteran journalist and a lawyer. He was the former publisher of Mindanao Times. He also headed several media affiliations including the Philippine Press Institute, the regional chapter of the Publisher Association of the Philippines, and the Davao Press Club.



Fidel V. Ramos, the 12th President of the Republic of the Philippines, is remembered for his ability to lead and his willingness to be led -- not by astute advisors and political strategists, but by the people whom he served, and served well. Steadfastly and faithfully, he promoted the principles of people empowerment and a culture of excellence that both led to global competitiveness during his term as President from 30 June 1992 to 30 June 1998. He is appreciated as the leader who quickly led the nation out of darkness, putting an end to the power crisis that crippled our homes and industries. He exemplified the leader who always looked toward the strategic future and whose thumbs-up optimism -- captured in descriptive phrases like "Caring, Sharing and Daring," "Philippines 1500" and "Pole-vaulting" -- propelled the economy and social welfare. He is remembered for his positive energy that seemed to burst from his cool and at times steely demeanor. He pursued, focused and converged programs to fight poverty in accordance with the will of the Filipino people expressed by 229 structural/reform laws enacted by Congress from 1992 to 1998.

During the years 1993-1997, the Philippine economy recovered dramatically and a comprehensive Social Reform Agenda (SRA) was implemented that addressed long-standing problems regarding poverty, health, education and skills training, housing, environmental protection, children and the youth, the elderly and the handicapped, jobs and livelihood, agrarian reform and access to equal opportunity. Gross National Product averaged 5 percent annually. The total inflow of foreign exchange into the country outpaced forex inflows of the combined periods of rule of both Presidents Marcos and Cory Aquino. Average income of the Filipino family grew more during his administration than in the preceding two decades. He pushed for the deregulation of key industries and the liberalization of the economy. He encouraged the privatization of public entities, to include the modernization of public infrastructure through the expanded Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law. While communist insurgency dwindled to historic lows, he achieved a peace agreement with military rebels (RAM, ALTAS, YOU) in October 1995 and the MNLF southern secessionists in September 1996 which won for him (together with Chairman Nur Misuari) and the Philippines the coveted 1997 UNESCO Peace Prize -- the first for Asians. His public service spanned a total period of 51 years.

He also served as Secretary of National Defense (1988-1991) and Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (1986-1988) with the rank of General (4 Stars). His military/law enforcement service of more than 40 years was capped by the peaceful, non-violent People Power Revolution at EDSA in February 1986 which threw out a dictatorial regime.

In retirement, he seems to be always on the go throughout the Philippines, mobilizing the citizenry and pushing the "best practices" of Unity of Purpose, Solidarity in Values and Teamwork in Nation-building at every opportunity. Ever the international diplomat and Philippine cheerleader, he personally interacts with many leaders in various strategic and intellectual fora around the world.



**HIS EXCELLENCY  
FIDEL VALDEZ RAMOS**

Former President of the  
Republic of the Philippines

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## Session 1 Plenary

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Dr. Clarita Carlos is professor of political science at University of the Philippines. She was also the first female, civilian President of the National Defense College of the Philippines. She has written on political parties, elections, bureaucratic reform and democratic deficits, among others. Her recent books are on population ageing and disaster management. Dr. Carlos continues to teach and is doing consultancy work with the Congress and other government agencies. She heads the think tank, Center for Political and Democratic Reform, Inc.



**PLENARY CHAIR  
DR. CLARITA R. CARLOS**

Executive Director  
Center for Political and  
Democratic Reform, Inc.  
(CPDRI)







**UNDERSECRETARY  
CATALINO S. CUY**

Department of Interior and  
Local Government

Philippine Leader for the  
ASEAN Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime  
(AMMTC)

Catalino Salandanan Cuy is currently the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) Officer-In-Charge. Prior to this, he was appointed DILG Undersecretary for Peace and Order of the Philippine Department of the Interior of Local Government.

Cuy has decades of law enforcement career. Prior to joining the Philippine National Police in Mindanao, he served as an aide of President Fidel Ramos. He acted as the Provincial Director of the Davao Oriental Police Office from 2002 to 2005, then became Deputy Director for Personnel and Record Management in 2009 and was appointed as PNP Special Task Force Commander in 2010.

Mr. Cuy is a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy. He earned his Bachelor of Science with a major in Electrical Engineering degree from the Mapua Institute of Technology and received a Master's degree in Public Administration from the Manuel L. Quezon University.



**HON. DELFIN N.  
LORENZANA**

Secretary  
Department of National  
Defense, Philippines

Secretary Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana is the 36th Secretary of National Defense. With more than four decades of serving the nation in defense and foreign relations, Secretary Lorenzana has made significant contributions in both his military and diplomatic careers.

As Special Presidential Representative for Veterans Affairs at the Philippine Embassy in Washington, DC from 2004 to 2015, he rallied for the cause of Filipino veterans, implementing the Philippine campaign to obtain veterans benefits for our soldiers who served in the US Army in the Second World War.

As Defense and Armed Forces Attaché from 2002-2004, he oversaw and monitored military bilateral relations between the Philippines and the US on the Visiting Forces Agreement, military exercises, aid, training and foreign military sales. In 2002, he also helped develop the Terms of Reference for the highly successful Balikatan Exercises between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the US Pacific Command in Basilan; which supported military operations aimed to neutralize the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group in Southern Philippines.

As commander of the Special Operations Command (SOCOM) in 2001, then-Major General Lorenzana was responsible for equipping, training, and deploying SOCOM forces all over the Philippines. He was also the commander of the 2nd Scout Ranger Battalion in Malagos, Davao City, where he was instrumental in clearing the city of insurgents, sparrow units and other criminal groups, paving the way for peace and order, as well as economic development.

A staunch defender of the flag, he has protected three Presidents during his service with the Presidential Security Group and as Commander of the Light Armored Brigade: President Corazon C. Aquino, President Joseph E. Estrada and President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

His awards and decorations include the Feb '86 Revolution Ribbon, the Gold Cross Medal for Gallantry in Combat, the Presidential Legion of Honor (Degree of Officer), the USA Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer), and the Distinguished Service Star.

Mr. Almgren's career with the United Nations spans 25 years, during which he held various positions related to the coordination of humanitarian assistance, development cooperation, and peace and security. Prior to his arrival in the Philippines, he was the Director of Political Affairs and Head of the New York Office of the Joint Mission of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) for the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic. From 2010 to 2011, he was the Mission Chief of Staff of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), and from 2009 to 2010, Head of the Integrated Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Mr. Almgren worked with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery from 2006 to 2009, where he provided leadership to the development of the UNDP disaster recovery practice area. From 2004 to 2006, he was seconded by the Swedish Government to the Council of the European Union, where he assisted in the development of civilian crisis management doctrine and capacities. His previous service with the United Nations includes eight years (1990 to 1998) in various functions with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and its predecessors, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs (DHA) and the United Nations Disaster Relief Office (UNDRO). In 1998 Mr. Almgren returned to Sweden to serve as the Deputy Director of the Rescue Service of the City of Stockholm until he resumed his international career in 2003.

Mr. Almgren holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from the Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden.



**MR. OLA ALMGREN**

Resident Coordinator and  
Humanitarian Coordinator

United Nations System  
Resident Representative,  
United Nations  
Development Programme  
Philippines

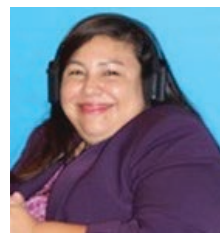
Sam Grunhard is the Deputy Coordinator in the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Centre at the Australian Attorney-General's Department. The CVE Centre leads, shapes and coordinates Australia's national CVE efforts, which aim for early intervention to prevent individuals from becoming willing supporters or engage in acts of violent extremism. In his current position, Sam's responsibilities include tackling terrorist propaganda online, counternarratives, terrorist offenders in prisons, and international engagement and capacity building on CVE. Prior to this role he worked in telecommunications security at the Attorney-General's Department, and at the Australian Research Council.



**MR. SAMUEL GRUNHARD**

Assistant Secretary  
Attorney-General's Department  
CVE Centre, Australia

Hanny has supported the development of National Action Plans to implement UNSCR 1325, and has been one of the main technical leading experts on the interagency work for development of indicators on women, peace and security for use at the global level as requested by Security Council Resolution 1889. She is the Practice Manager of the women, peace and security section in UN Women that oversees various global programmes on mediation and conflict resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict planning, rule of law and transitional justice, postconflict governance and elections, among others. Hanny was also one of the main authors of UNIFEM's flagship report Progress of the World's women 2008/09 "Who Answers to Women? Gender and Accountability". Hanny is originally from Peru where she was a University lecturer and researcher for over 10 years, working on poverty and development issues, on which she has published extensively. She holds a BA in Economics and a MPhil in Development Studies.



**DR. HANNY  
CUEVA-BETETA**

Regional Advisor on  
Governance, Peace and  
Security  
UN Women

**MS. YENNY WAHID**

Director  
Wahid Institute, Indonesia

Yannuba Ariffah Chafsoh Rahman Wahid, or more popularly known as Yenny Wahid (born 29 October 1974 in Jombang, East Java) is an Indonesian Islamic activist and politician. She is currently the director of the The Wahid Institute, an Islamic research center founded by her father. She is the second daughter of the late President of Indonesia Abdurrahman Wahid. She obtained her bachelor's degree in design and visual communication from Trisakti University in Jakarta, but upon graduation she went to work as a journalist for Australian newspapers The Sydney Morning Herald and The Age. As a journalist, she covered news stories from East Timor and Aceh. For her stories in post-referendum East Timor, she and her team won a Walkley Award for journalism. When her father was elected as the country's fourth President, she had to leave her career in journalism in order to assist her father in his new post, with special responsibility for communication. Upon Wahid's impeachment, she went to pursue a master's degree in Harvard's Kennedy School of Government as Mason Fellow. In 2004, upon her return from Boston, she was appointed as the director of the newly founded Wahid Institute, as political communication advisor to the President of Republic Indonesia 2005–2007, a position that she still retains now. She is also actively involved in the National Awakening Party (PKB) as Secretary General. Greg Barton in The Australian credits her with having played a crucial role in persuading her father of "the extent of military-backed militia violence in East Timor [...] and the culpability of the Indonesian military leadership".

**DR. ROHAN GUNARATNA**

Head of International  
Centre for Political  
Violence and Terrorism  
Research (ICPVTR),  
RSIS, Singapore

Dr. 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.

He received his Masters from the University of Notre Dame in the US where he was Hesburgh Scholar and his doctorate from the University of St Andrews in the UK where he was British Chevening Scholar. A former Senior Fellow at the Combating Terrorism Centre at the United States Military Academy at West Point and at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Gunaratna was invited to testify on the structure of al Qaeda before the 9/11 Commission. The author of 17 books including "Inside al Qaeda: Global Network of Terror" (University of Columbia Press), Gunaratna edits the Insurgency and Terrorism Series of the Imperial College Press, London. On CVE, Gunaratna has published extensively including editing with Ustaz Prof Mohamed bin Ali, "Terrorist Rehabilitation: A New Frontier in Counter-terrorism," Insurgency and Terrorism Series: Volume 7, Imperial College Press, London, 2015 and coauthored with Ami Angell, "Terrorist Rehabilitation: The U.S. Experience in Iraq," Florida, CRC Press, 2011.

Gunaratna has worked with governments to build their rehabilitation and community engagement programs in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, UAE and Oman. He chaired the inaugural International Conference on Terrorist Rehabilitation in February 2009.

A trainer for national security agencies, law enforcement authorities and military counter terrorism units, interviewed terrorists and insurgents in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Yemen, Libya, Saudi Arabia and other conflict zones. For advancing international security cooperation, Gunaratna received the Major General Ralph H. Van Deman Award in June 2014.

## Session 2 Plenary

**PLENARY CHAIR  
DR. KUMAR  
RAMAKRISHNA**

Head of Policy Studies,  
RSIS, Singapore

Kumar Ramakrishna is a tenured Associate Professor and Head Policy Studies, as well as Coordinator of the National Security Studies Programme, in the Office of the Executive Deputy Chairman, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

He was previously the Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) at RSIS from 2006–2015. A historian by background, Associate Professor Ramakrishna has been a frequent speaker on counter-terrorism before local and international audiences, a regular media commentator on counter-terrorism, and an established author in numerous internationally refereed journals.

His first book, Emergency Propaganda: The Winning of Malayan Hearts and Minds 1948–1958 (2002) was described by the International History Review as "required reading for historians of Malaya, and for those whose task is to counter insurgents, guerrillas, and terrorists". His second major book, Radical Pathways: Understanding Muslim Radicalisation in Indonesia (2009), was featured as one of the top 150 books on terrorism and counterterrorism in the respected journal Perspectives on Terrorism, which identified Associate Professor Ramakrishna as "one of Southeast Asia's leading counterterrorism experts". His most recent books are Islamist Terrorism and Militancy in Indonesia: The Power of the Manichean Mindset (2015), Original Sin? Revising the Revisionist Critique of the 1963 Operation Coldstore in Singapore (2015), and Singapore Chronicles: Emergency (2016).

Asrul Daniel Ahmed is a Senior Consultant Analyst for the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCT). He has served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Global Movement of Moderates Foundation in Kuala Lumpur, and was previously a Programme Officer in the Communications Unit of the International Committee of the Red Cross' Kuala Lumpur Regional Delegation. He obtained his undergraduate degree at the International Islamic University Malaysia, and earned his M.A. in International Relations at the International University of Japan in Niigata in 2005. He has presented at various panels on international security, humanitarian issues and countering violent extremism, including the Malaysia In.Spires Forum at Oxford University (2014), Australia's Regional Summit to Counter Violent Extremism in Sydney (2015), the Asia Pacific Roundtable in Kuala Lumpur (2016), Google's Counterspeech Summit in Tokyo (2016) and the RightsCon Summit in San Francisco (2016). He has helped plan and organise a number of workshops aimed at the development of CVE narrative content and counter-messaging products, including the Content Creators' Workshop on Countering the Narrative of Violent Extremism in 2015 in collaboration with Google, and more recently two CVE hackathons involving Malaysian undergraduate student leaders in 2017.



**MR. ASRUL DANIEL AHMED**

Senior Consultant Analyst  
Southeast Asia Regional  
Centre for Counter-Terrorism  
(SEARCT) Malaysia

Noor Huda Ismail is the founder of The Institute for International Peace Building in Indonesia. Ashoka, a global social entrepreneur organization awarded him as Ashoka Fellow 2013 as a social innovator for new approach on civic engagement.

Through the Institute, he reincorporates former convicted terrorists back into mainstream Indonesian society. At the same time, he also empowers women who are affected directly with violence in post conflict areas such as in Poso, Central Sulawesi, Indonesia. Ismail's connection to the world of extremism can be traced back to his childhood. His roommate when he studied in an Islamic boarding school in Central Java for six years was one of the Bali bombers in 2002.

Prior to this activity, he worked as a special correspondent for the Washington Post Southeast Asia Bureau from 2002-2005. He then won British's Chevening Scholarship in 2005 to further his master degree on International Security at St Andrews University, Scotland.

His book, *My friend, the terrorist?* (Mizan 2010) was recently selected at the Frankfurt International Book Festival 2015. His new documentary film, *Jihad Selfie* will be screened worldwide this year to challenge the narrative of the radicals.

Mr Ismail's writings have appeared in a number of media outlets such as the Washington Post, The Rolling Stones, Sydney Morning Herald, The Australian, The Strait Times, The Jakarta Post, Tempo Magazine, Kompas. He appears regularly on Indonesian TV stations such as Metro TV and TV One and international ones such as ABC TV, SBS TV, CNN, BBC, Al Jazeera to comment on security issues. He also gives a Tedx Talk in Hong Kong and a series of public lectures in the US, Australia, UK, France, Holland, Germany, Austria, Spain, Geneva, Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Mr Ismail is now working closely with Google together with NGOs in Asia Pacific regions on how to use technology to counter the spread of violence ideology. Since 2014, he is pursuing his PhD student of Politics and International Relations at Monash University on Australian Award Scholarship.



**MR. NOOR HUDA ISMAIL**

Founder  
Institute For International  
Peace Building, Indonesia

Dr. Aurora Javate-De Dios is a member of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). She was formerly the Executive Director of Women and Gender Institute (WAGI) of Miriam College, the Philippines, the Gender Advisor of the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women (NCRFW), and the President of Board of Trustees of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women – Asia-Pacific (CATWAP).

Prior to these, she was former CEDAW Committee member and expert from 1995-1998 and Rapporteur from 1996-1998. As Expert, she reviewed over 60 national reports on women and provided technical advice on the national compliance with the Convention. As Rapporteur she prepared the Committee's Report after every session for submission to and international dissemination of the UN Division for Advancement of Women. She has contributed to CEDAW as a trainer nationally and internationally.

She was the recipient of the UP Alumni Association award for Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in 2013.



**DR. AURORA JAVATE DE DIOS**

Expert for Women  
ASEAN Commission on the  
Promotion and Protection  
of the Rights of Women  
and Children

**MR. CELAKHAN PATHAN**

Founding Member  
Patani Forum Associate,  
Asia Conflict and Security  
Consulting, Thailand

Don Pathan is a Thailand-based security analyst with more than 20 years of experience in covering international relations and insurgency in Southeast Asia. Over the past seven years Pathan has been working closely with The Asia Foundation and the World Bank on development in the conflict affected area of southern Thailand. Pathan is also one of the founding member of the Patani Forum ([www.pataniforum.com](http://www.pataniforum.com)), a civil society organisation dedicated to promoting critical discussion on the conflict and insurgency in Thailand's Malay-speaking South.

**DR. SHASHI JAYAKUMAR**

Head  
Centre Of Excellence For  
National Security, RSIS,  
Singapore

Dr. Shashi Jayakumar has been the Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS) since he assumed the appointment in April of 2015.

Dr. Jayakumar has been a member of the Singapore Administrative Service since 2002. During this time, he was posted to various Ministries, including the Ministries of Defence, Manpower, Information and the Arts, and Community Development, Youth and Sports. He was from August 2011 to July 2014 a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy where his research focus was on local society and politics.

Dr. Jayakumar was educated at Oxford University where he studied History (BA 1997, D.Phil, 2001). He has published in various peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes on topics relating to medieval history which was the focus of his doctorate and is currently working on two book projects relating to local politics (forthcoming, 2018).

## Breakout Session 1

**MS. ALISSA WAHID**

Founder and National  
Coordinator  
Gusdurian Network  
Indonesia

### WOMEN | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Alissa Wahid is the Founder and National Coordinator of Gusdurian Network, a vast network of activists in Indonesia. It engages thousands of activists and supporters, with affiliate communities in 100+ cities. As a value-based network, it concentrates on values of humanity, justice, liberation (of any oppression), and peace. Currently, the Network focuses on issues of Multiculturalism, Democracy, and Human Rights. In particular, the highlight of 2016 was the International Day of Tolerance festival in 50 cities.

Wahid is well-known for her social media campaigns on many human right issues, while working endlessly at the grassroots level, supporting various cases of marginalized groups and discriminations. She is currently working on initiatives to counter violent extremism through interfaith youth projects. She is also involved in Islam Nusantara movement to promote peaceful Islam.

Wahid, who is an Eisenhower Fellow for Leadership, believes that Indonesian politics are largely driven and dominated by oligarchs, and people are left behind. Where people lack effective channels for their political aspirations, the internet can play a major role to amplify the voice of the people, to educate people on their civic rights, and to bring about changes. Hence, Wahid's diligent capitalization of her social media channels.

## WOMEN | THOUGHT LEADER 2

Samira Gutoc is a blogger, journalist, environmentalist, and activist. She now leads the Ranao Rescue Team, which works on the humanitarian response for Marawi City. She is a PCID convenor and former member of the Asian Peace Alliance, Asia-Pacific Peace Research Association. As a youth leader, she lectured on youth development in regional councils all over the country. She was a former convenor of the Young Moro Professionals Network. She was also a former member of the Bangsamoro Transition Commission and Autonomous Region Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). She is a member of the Board of Directors of Al-Amanah Islamic Investment Bank of the Philippines.

She obtained her degrees in Communication and Master in International Studies from the University of the Philippines Diliman. On the other hand, she finished her law degree at the Arellano School of Law. She was also a fellow at the Oxford Center for Islamic Studies doing research on Causes of Terrorism, the Abu Sayyaf Case. As a Muslim leader, she was awarded as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM).



**MS. SAMIRA GUTOC TOMAWIS**

Member  
Ranao Rescue Team

## WOMEN | FACILITATOR

Dr. Ma. Lourdes Veneracion-Rallonza is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science of the Ateneo de Manila University. She is currently a member of the International Advisory Board of the Asia Pacific Centre of the Responsibility to Protect as well as the consultant for the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) on the drafting of the Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (NAP WPS) 2017-2022. Dr. Veneracion-Rallonza served as the Senior Gender Adviser of the Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) for the Bangsamoro and as Lead Consultant for UN Women (Asia Pacific) for the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission (AICHR) on drafting a strategy paper on human rights protection mechanisms for women and girls in South East Asia. Recently, she participated in a UN Expert Mission on Gender and Transitional Justice in Colombia as one of the international experts.



**DR. MARIA LOURDES VENERACION RALLONZA**

Assistant Professor,  
Department of  
Political Science,  
Ateneo de Manila University

## ACADEMIA | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Francisco Lara has extensive experience working in the voluntary, non-profit, and government sectors. Before joining International Alert, he served as Philippines Country Director of Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO), was the Policy Specialist in Agrarian Reform and Rural Development at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in the Philippines, and subsequently served as Chief of Staff of the Cabinet Secretary of the Department of Agrarian Reform (1998–2001). He holds a BA in Sociology from the University of the Philippines, and an MSc and PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He worked as a research associate at the LSE Crisis States Research Centre (2007–2010), taught classes at the LSE Development Studies Institute (2007–2008) and wrote on political economy issues in Indonesia and the Philippines for the LSE-IDEAS Emerging Markets Bulletin (2007–2009). He has also taught at the University of the Philippines, and has researched and written on diverse topics, such as the political economy of conflict, political settlements, economic sociology, agrarian reform, food security, rural politics, and agricultural trade policy. Pancho's latest publication is a co-edited volume on the links between Mindanao's shadow economies, conflict and governance, entitled *Out of the shadows: Violent conflict and the real economy of Mindanao* (2013).



**DR. FRANCISCO LARA**

Country Manager  
International Alert,  
Philippines





**ATTY. BENEDICTO  
BACANI**

Executive Director  
Institute of Autonomy and  
Governance (IAG)

#### ACADEMIA | FACILITATOR

Benedicto R. Bacani is the founding executive director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG), a policy center based in Cotabato City that specializes in the study of autonomy and good governance as a solution to the Mindanao conflict. He was dean of the College of Law of Notre Dame University in Cotabato City. He has broad international experience in examining political solutions to conflicts and promoting the rights of minorities having been a senior fellow of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington DC, USA and a Hubert Humphrey fellow at the University of Minnesota where he specialized in federalism and conflict management. He was a short-term consultant on constitution-making in Nepal. He was a visiting lecturer at the European University Centre for Peace Studies in Austria. He was based in the Netherlands and Hong Kong for four (4) years as Asia director of an international funding agency that provided grants to programs on education and peace and reconciliation to 13 countries in the region. He has authored books and monographs on Mindanao autonomy, most notably, "Beyond Paper Autonomy: The Challenge in Southern Philippines", a book published in 2004 that examined the causes of the failures and successes of Muslim Mindanao autonomy.



**ARCHBISHOP  
ANTONIO LEDESMA**

Archbishop  
Cagayan de Oro, Philippines

#### RELIGIOUS | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Archbishop Antonio J. Ledesma, SJ, DD was born on March 28, 1943 in Iloilo City. He was ordained a priest on April 16, 1973 at Jaro Cathedral, Iloilo City. On June 13, 1996 Pope John Paul II appointed him Coadjutor Bishop of Ipil, Zamboanga del Sur. He was ordained Bishop on August 31, 1996. His installation took place on July 16, 1997. On June 28, 1997 he succeeded as Bishop of Ipil. Pope Benedict XVI appointed him on March 3, 2006 Archbishop of Cagayan de Oro.

He is currently chairman of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' (CBCP) Episcopal Commission on Inter-religious Dialogue and member of the Episcopal Commission on Social Action, Justice and Peace.

Archbishop Ledesma speaks English, Tagalog, Hiligaynon, Cebuano, Spanish and Latin.



**DR. BADLISHAH SHAM  
BAHARIN**

Professor  
Universiti Putra Malaysia

#### RELIGIOUS | THOUGHT LEADER 2

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Badlishah received his secondary education at the King George V Secondary School in Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. In 1976 he was offered a scholarship to the U.K. where he did his 'A'-Levels at Coventry Technical College, Coventry and eventually to University of Leeds, from where he obtained his honours Degree in Chemical Engineering in 1981.

After graduation and upon returning home to Malaysia, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Badlishah was offered several jobs from giant companies such as PETRONAS, ESSO, SHELL and several others. However, due to the zeal to further his studies he declined all the offers and finally applied for a position of Tutor (Trainee Lecturer) at Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (now Universiti Putra Malaysia) in 1981. In 1983, he was sent to University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UK on a Malaysian Government scholarship for his Master's degree in Biochemical Engineering. His M.Sc project was on flocculation of proteins for improved recovery after fermentation.

Upon returning to Malaysia he was appointed as lecturer at the Department of Food Technology in 1985. When the Department of Biotechnology was set up in 1987 he was loaned to the department to aid in setting up of courses for bioprocess and biochemical engineering. He was awarded a JICA training grant in 1993 to conduct research at Okayama University, Japan on carotene recovery from crude palm oil. In 1994, he was awarded an ADB Fellowship to conduct research at Monash University, Australia on protein recovery using chromatographic techniques. He was again awarded a JICA training grant in 1999 to conduct research at Yamaguchi University, Japan on vitamin E recovery from palm oil. He had also presented papers in a few regional workshops organized by UNESCO such as the regional workshop on energy from biomass in Bangkok, Thailand in 1986 and the regional workshop on bioinformatics in Osaka, Japan in 1987.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Badlishah has been awarded as the Top Research Scientist Malaysia (TRSM) in 2012 where he is listed as one of Top Research Scientists Malaysia by Academy of Science Malaysia. He is now still working at Department of Food Technology, Faculty of Food Science and Technology, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

**RELIGIOUS | FACILITATOR**

Dr Maszlee Malik is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Islamic Revealed Knowledge and Human Sciences at the International Islamic University Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. He obtained his Ph.D. in the UK in Political Science. He also taught at Durham University from 2008–2009. He was invited to be a guest speaker for SOAS summer school on 'Political Islam' for two consecutive years, 2009 and 2010. Furthermore, Dr. Malik is also frequently invited as a guest speaker by many Malaysian media outlets to talk on the issues relating to Political Islam, Middle Eastern Politics, and Arab Spring. His research area is in Islamic jurisprudence, Contemporary Islamic Political Thoughts and Movements and Good Governance. He has also authored Good Governance Civil Society & Islam (2015), Foundations of Islamic Governance: A Southeast Asian Perspective (2016), and Generasi Kedua Politik Islam: Wacana Baru Gerakan Islam (2016).

**DR. MASZLEE MALIK**

Assistant Professor  
Universiti Islam  
Antarabangsa Malaysia

**BUSINESS | THOUGHT LEADER 1**

Upon leaving the Army as a Captain with the Singapore Special Forces, Danny proceeded to develop, advice and train numerous law enforcement and military tactical units around the world with Britam Defence before serving Fortune 500 and Government clients with Olive Group on four continents. Danny was then Director of Global Risk Assessments at iJET International Incorporated which provided operational intelligence to 650 of the Fortune 2000 companies and numerous government agencies. Danny is now Regional Director, Global Safety and Security at Marriott International Incorporated where he handled among many cases, the 2009 Jakarta twin bombings, 2011 Japan earthquake/tsunami and more recently, the Israel crisis in 2014. Danny is frequently interviewed by the media and speaks regularly at international events.

**MR. DANNY CHAN**

Regional Director  
Global Safety And Security,  
Marriott International  
Singapore

Danny has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Masters of Business Administration (Finance). He has attended Leadership and Executive Programs at University of Oxford, Georgetown University and Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration. Danny is Executive Fellow at the Essex Business School, University of Essex where he is also pursuing his doctorate. Danny is also an adjunct lecturer at Nanyang Technological University's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

Danny is a Tactical Casualty Combat Care provider and an Executive Coach with Essec Business School. He is an Associate Member of the Business Continuity Institute, a Certified Professional Risk Manager, a Certified Enterprise Risk Manager, a Certified Anti-Terrorism Specialist and an assessor with the United Nation's International Maritime organization. He is also a certified Master Neuro Linguistic Programming, a Language and Behavior Consultant, Enneagram Profiler, Master Fengshui Practitioner. He also currently sits on the Regional Management Committees of ASIS International and is the Vice-Chair of the Advisory Board Analysts' Roundtable.

Danny volunteers as an Associate Mediator and Coach with Singapore Mediation Centre & Small Claims Tribunals – The Subordinate Courts of Singapore and runs his micro social initiative organization called "Making a Difference."

**BUSINESS | THOUGHT LEADER 2**

Pranoti Surve is the Global Intelligence Operations Manager at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, based in Singapore. She has worked as a journalist in South Asia, focused on organized crime and terrorism, and contributed to the best-selling book "Dongri to Dubai", based on the history of organized crime in Mumbai. She has worked in risk consulting positions across the consulting and financial services sectors in London, Mumbai and Singapore over a span of ten years. She is the founder and chairperson of the Asia Pacific Analyst Roundtable and serves on the Steering Committee of the Asia Crisis and Security Group. Pranoti has a Bachelor's degree in journalism from St Xavier's College, Mumbai and a Master's Degree in International Studies and Diplomacy from SOAS, University of London. Her main research areas are organized crime and terrorism.

**MS. PRANOTI SURVE**

Global Intelligence  
Operations Manager  
Bank of America Merrill  
Lynch







**DR. FEDERICO  
MACARANAS**

Professor  
Asian Institute of  
Management;  
Executive Director,  
AIM Policy Center

### **BUSINESS | FACILITATOR**

Federico M. Macaranas, PhD, has a career spanning the fields of academe, business, and government.

In the private sector, he was president of Clemente Holdings (Asia) Ltd. and served as senior adviser on direct investments and mutual funds and economic adviser to the First Philippine Fund (New York).

In government, he assumed several positions in the Department of Foreign Affairs, first as Assistant Secretary for Foreign Affairs during the Aquino administration. There, he helped formulate and implement the development diplomacy thrust of the government. Under the Ramos administration, he became undersecretary for economic affairs and served as chairman of the 1996 Senior Officials Meetings of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), taking charge of the overall assistance to the Ministerial Meetings and the Subic Summit. In 2001, President Arroyo conferred on him the Gawas Mabini, Dakilang Kamanong Award, the highest award given by the Philippine government for diplomatic service.

At a young age, he started his career as an academician, initially appointed assistant professor and eventually became chairman of the economics and finance department of Manhattan College where he was conferred the first Board of Trustees Award for Excellence as a Teacher/Scholar. He initiated the introduction of a finance major that resulted in the doubling of the enrollment and faculty of the department. He also served as research institute director of the School of Business and worked closely with the faculty of the Peace Studies Program. At the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), he was formerly the dean of the Center for Development Management, and currently a full professor at the Institute. He also headed the AIM Policy Center, the Institute's think-tank, as its executive director. A true leader, he was chairman of the Center for Servant Leadership, Philippine Chapter of the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership.

With his credentials and countless achievements, Dr. Macaranas remains to be one of the most sought-after international lecturers and speakers on globalization, economics and leadership.

Prof. Macaranas earned his Bachelor of Arts in Economics (Cum Laude) from the University of the Philippines (1967) where he was conferred the Carlos P. Romulo Pin for Academic Excellence. He holds a Master of Science in Economics (1970) and a Doctor of Philosophy in Economics (1975) from Purdue University under scholarship and fellowship grants from the Fulbright-Hays, Ford, Rockefeller, Krannert, and Asia Foundations. He conducted his post-doctoral research on the impact of authoritarian regimes on economic performance at Harvard University and is the first Filipino invited by Nobel laureates to a Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs (1969).



**WENDY YEE**

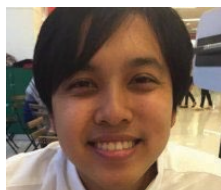
Professor and Senior  
Lecturer  
University Of Malaya,  
Malaysia

### **YOUTH | THOUGHT LEADER 1**

Wendy Yee has served as a Senior Lecturer of Ethnic Relations at the University of Malaya since 2007. She received her PhD degree in Youth Studies from University Putra Malaysia in 2008.

Notably, Wendy obtained a Certificate in International Relations and Human Rights Studies from the United Nations University, Tokyo in 2006 and in 2014, a certificate in Peacebuilding and Intercultural Dialogue organized by the Institute for Peace and Dialogue (IPD) in Switzerland.

Wendy's main research and writing activities have focused on youth development and empowering youth; covering issues on inter-ethnic relations, youth identities, and youth intercultural communications. She has also expanded her research works to include education, youth, psycho and social well-being, peace, and unity. Currently, Wendy is actively involved as consultants in two national Ministries in Malaysia; namely the Ministry of Youth and Sports and also the Department of National Unity and National Integration under the Prime Minister Department.



**MR. RACKCHART WONG-  
ARTHICHART**

Program Associate for  
Advocacy  
Raks Thai Foundation

### **YOUTH | THOUGHT LEADER 2**

Rackchart Wong Arthichart is currently the Program Associate for Advocacy at Raks Thai Foundation, an active member of CARE International. He works on various projects to promote strong communities and assist the disadvantaged in society. He also served as the Communication Programme's intern to Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (FORUM-ASIA) and did research on issues related to human rights, democracy and development. From 2015 to 2016, Rackchart acted as the Programme office to Friedrich Ebert-Stiftung, Thailand, where he initiated, coordinated and organized projects with multi-stakeholders such as the Democracy and Broad discourse.

Rackchart gained his Bachelor of Arts in British and American Studies degree in International Program at Thammasat University and is currently finishing his Masters degree in Political Science in International at the same institution.

**YOUTH | FACILITATOR**

Beverly Orozco is the Program Director for Peace Advocacy and Networking at the Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute and currently the National Coordinator of Generation Peace Youth Network. Both organizations work on supporting the Philippine Peace Process through various programs and advocacy. She graduated from Miriam College and holds a degree of Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. For more than 15 years, she has worked on peace, human rights, disarmament, indigenous peoples and youth advocacy. She has led and managed youth projects and programs on peace education and promotion of culture of peace, human rights education, interfaith and intercultural dialogue. She has been representing GZO Peace Institute and Generation Peace Youth Network in different national and regional networks. Together with GenPeace, as a member of United Network of Young Peacebuilders, she is actively promoting United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security. Together with the leaders of GenPeace, she has continued to accompany the youth network and develop young peacebuilders in the country.

**MS. BEVERLY OROZCO**

National Coordinator  
Generation Peace Youth  
Network (GenPeace)

**POLITICAL | THOUGHT LEADER**

Jesus Crispin Remulla is the Governor of Cavite. He was Deputy Majority Leader, and a member of the rewriting team of the Committee on Rules in the 13th Congress. He was vice- chairman of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, and a member of all standing House committees.

Cong. Remulla considers his bills revitalizing the University of the Philippines Charter, enacting the Philippine Normal University Charter, and several other bills concerning higher education as his best accomplishments as a legislator. His legislative agenda is focused on education, medical assistance and infrastructure.

Deputy Speaker Remulla pushed for the approval of more than 60 bills in the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, including the use of English as a medium of instruction and the Magna Carta for Students. He also supported the approval of local education bills for most regions as part of human resource development.

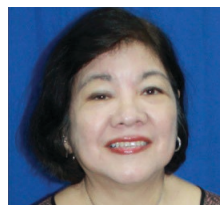
Among the bills, he co- authored are RA 9502, or the Cheaper Medicines Act; RA 9513, or the Renewable Energy Act of 2008; and RA 9521, or the National Book Development Trust Fund Act

**GOVERNOR JESUS  
CRISPIN REMULLA**

Governor  
Cavite, Philippines

**POLITICAL | FACILITATOR**

Karen N. Tañada, is Executive Director of Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute, a service base and resource centre that supports citizens' participation in peace processes. She is a member of the Third Party Monitoring Team, an independent body mandated to monitor the implementation of the GPH-MILF Peace Agreements on the Bangsamoro. She is among the convenors of key peace networks: Waging Peace Philippines, the Mindanao Peaceweavers, and Women Engaged in Action on 1325.

**MS. KAREN TAÑADA**

Executive Director  
Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace  
Institute





**AMBASSADOR  
MACABANGKIT LANTO**

Former Congressman  
Lanao del sur

**SPECIAL BRIEFING WORKSHOP ON MARAWI | SPEAKER 1**

Former Philippine Ambassador to Egypt from 1999 to 2001, Mr. Macabangkit Lanto also served as congressman for Lanao del Sur, Mindanao. He was also a former senior consultant on the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the Senate in the mid-1990s.

Mr. Lanto finished his law degree at the University of the Philippines and was a Fulbright fellow at New York University for his postgraduate studies.



**LT. GEN. CARLITO  
GALVEZ JR.**

Area Commander,  
Western Mindanao,  
Philippines

**SPECIAL BRIEFING WORKSHOP ON MARAWI | SPEAKER 2**

Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez Jr, is the commander of the Western Mindanao Command (Westmincom), recently appointed to be at the forefront of peace-building activities in conflict-affected areas of Mindanao. Westincom commands over regions where violence and hostilities are rampant, and where threat groups operate such as the Abu Sayyaf terror group in Basilan and Sulu, the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in Maguindanao, the New People's Army in the Zamboanga region, and the Maute Group in Lanao del Sur.

Galvez has an extensive combat and administrative experience in dealing with various threat groups having spent most of his military career in Mindanao. As commander of Westincom, among his top priorities are to lead military operations against local terrorists groups, and protect the on-going peace agreements with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

Galvez is member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1985 and a recipient of The Outstanding Philippine Soldier (TOPS) award in 2007.



**DR. SAFFRULLA DIPATUAN**

Chairman  
Bangsamoro Development  
Agency, Philippines

**SPECIAL BRIEFING WORKSHOP ON MARAWI | SPEAKER 3**

Dr. Saffrullah Marohomsalic Dipatuan is an experienced medical practitioner for 29 years with specialty in family medicine. He served the MILF's Bangsamoro Development Agency for 15 years in various capacities since its creation in 2002. For the past six years to date, he is designated by the MILF Central Committee as Chairman of the said agency. The Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA) is a humanitarian, rehabilitation and development body created by the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in pursuance of the terms and spirit of the GPH-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 22 June 2001. He is founding Chairman and Chief of Hospital of the SMD General Hospital, Marawi City for 27 years. He is also founding Chairman of the SMD Foundation Academy, Marawi City for 13 years since 2004.

He is Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the World Bank-managed multi-donor Mindanao Trust Fund – Reconstruction and Development Program (MTF-RDP). He was Chairman of the Program Advisory Panel of the Tahdeeriyah Program, a joint collaboration with UNICEF, Australian Embassy, and other domestic partners. He was Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the Capability Development in Conflict Affected Areas in Mindanao (CD-CAAM) supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the crafting of the Bangsamoro Development Plan (BDP), which is a blueprint for the massive reconstruction and development program that will be implemented once the Bangsamoro government is in place.

Recently he was designated by the MILF Central Committee as Provincial Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the newly created United Bangsamoro Justice Party (UBJP), Province of Lanao del Sur. He is still holding said position. He was also inducted in Davao City as member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Mindanao. He was awarded by the Marawi City Division of DepEd-ARMM as an Outstanding School President and by the CHED-ARMM as an Outstanding Bangsamoro Educator in 2015.



Mr. Dipatuan completed his pre-medical degree at the Far Eastern University, Manila in 1982 and was conferred his medical degree at the PMC College of Medicine Foundation, Inc., Antipolo, Rizal in 1987. He also finished his graduate studies in Governmental Management and Master in Public Administration (MPA) at the Mindanao State University, Marawi City in 1995. He was also conferred a degree in Master in Business Administration major in Hospital Administration (MBA-HA) at Southwestern University, Cebu City in 2015. He was conferred with a degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health by the B.E.S.T.-Living Rock Spring Global Academy, Inc., Kidapawan City in 26 August 2016.

#### SPECIAL BRIEFING WORKSHOP ON MARAWI | MODERATOR

Austere A. Panadero is the Undersecretary for Local Government of the Department of the Interior and Local Governments (DILG). A career official, Undersecretary Panadero oversees the local governance portfolio of the Department, overseeing policy and program development and implementation to raise the capacities of local government units for accountable, transparent, and results based local governance. Under the auspices of the Undersecretary is localizing national government priorities through local government supervision, monitoring and enforcement, particularly along the areas of poverty reduction, economic development, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and environmental management. The Undersecretary also provides overall leadership of the Department's capacity-building program for local government units. An advocate for bringing about meaningful change in local communities, Usec. Panadero works closely with partners, particularly civil society, the private sector, the academe, and the international development community to foster opportunities and partnerships for local transformations through improved local governance and development.



**HON. AUSTERE A. PANADERO**

Undersecretary for Local Government of the Department of the Interior and Local Governments (DILG), Philippines

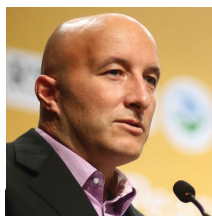
### Session 3 Plenary

Sam Chittick was appointed country representative for the Philippines in July 2017. He oversees the Foundation's programming in the Philippines, focused on supporting economic growth, strengthening justice and the rule of law, fostering peace and development, and improving governance. He leads a large country team with offices in Manila, Cotabato and Zamboanga, and engagements with a wide range of Philippine and international partners.

Sam has deep expertise in a number of the core areas of Foundation work, including governance and decentralization; peace, security and conflict; local economic development; and human rights and the rule of law. Over the last twenty years he has worked within and alongside a range of development organizations, including the World Bank, Australian Aid, the United Nations, GIZ, and non-government organizations in 14 countries across Asia and Africa, eight years of which were in the Philippines. In his last role before joining the Foundation, he served as a Conflict, Security, and Development Consultant for the World Bank in Washington, D.C., while working on peace in southern Philippines, forced displacement challenges in Afghanistan, and development challenges in Thailand's southern provinces.

Sam will continue to build on the strong Philippine and regional partnerships for the Foundation that have developed over 60 years of Foundation presence in Asia.

Sam has a Master's degree in International and Community Development from Deakin University, Australia, and a bachelor's degree in Economics from Sydney University, Australia.



**PLENARY CHAIR  
DR. SAM CHITTICK**

Country Representative in the Philippines  
The Asia Foundation





**MS. RAHIMAH  
ABDULRAHIM**

Executive Director  
The Habibie Center,  
Indonesia

Rahimah (Ima) Abdulrahim is the Executive Director of The Habibie Center – one of Indonesia's leading think tanks focusing on democracy and human rights. In addition to running the day-to-day operations of The Habibie Center, she advocates for peace policy and the strengthening of democracy in Indonesia, and works to enhance relations between Indonesia and other countries. Ima speaks regularly in Indonesia and internationally on affairs concerning Indonesia and The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) – in particular the role of civil in society in democracy, global governance and democratization in the region.

Ima was selected as a 2015 Yale World Fellow joining a network of more than 250 Yale World Fellows from 84 countries. In 2001, Ima was awarded the APSA Congressional Fellowship from The Asia Foundation. That year, she worked in the Office of Congresswoman Juanita Millender-McDonald of California, lending her greater insight into the workings of a functioning democracy. In 2010 she completed a fellowship with IDEAS Indonesia, an Executive Program through the Sloan School of Management at MIT, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Ima earned her Bachelors of Human Science in Political Science and Islamic Revealed Knowledge & Heritage from the International Islamic University Malaysia. She holds an M.A. in International Studies and Diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, UK. In her free time she works with friends in championing women's empowerment, advocating and providing support for survivors of gender based violence through the non-profit Lentera Indonesia. She also helps to provide books to underprivileged children through a program that she helped start, Drive Books, Not Cars.



**DR. SYAFIQ A. MUGHNI**

Professor of Islamic  
Civilization, National  
Islamic University;

Chairman,  
Muhammadiyah Central  
Board for Interfaith and  
Intercultural Dialogue,  
Indonesia

Dr. Syafiq A. Mughni is Professor of Islamic Civilization at National Islamic University, Surabaya. He was also Rector of Muhammadiyah University at Sidoarjo. Positions include: Chairman of Muhammadiyah Provincial Board of East Java; Deputy Chairman of Muhammadiyah Central Board for Health and Humanitarian Affairs; Deputy Chairman of Muhammadiyah Central Board for Interfaith and Intercivilization Relations; Member of Provincial Board of Indonesian Council of Ulama; Member of Indonesian Society of History; Consultant on HIV&AIDS Programs, Health Policy Initiative, USAID, Indonesia; Advisor to Board of Interfaith Harmony, Provincial Government of East Java, Indonesia.



**MR. LUTFI HAKIM**

Associate  
Political Communications,  
IMAN Research Consulting

Lutfi Hakim is currently an Associate for Political Communications in IMAN Research Consulting, a think tank focusing on society, religion, and perception. The firm brings together academics, researchers, writers, journalists, policy specialists, and civil society activists. Lutfi has a masteral degree in International Political Communication from The University of Sheffield and a bachelor's degree in Professional Communications from RMIT University. He was a Senior Executive of corporate affairs for the Securities Commission of New Zealand and a PR Executive on Alpha Platform.



Maria has been a journalist in Asia for more than 25 years, most of them as CNN's bureau chief in Manila then Jakarta. She became CNN's lead investigative reporter focusing on terrorism in Southeast Asia and wrote "Seeds of Terror: An Eyewitness Account of al-Qaeda's Newest Center of Operations in Southeast Asia" (Free Press, 2003). The book was the first from the region documenting the growth of Jemaah Islamiyah and its links to Al-Qaeda.

In 1987, Maria was one of the founders of independent production company, Probe. In 2005, she took the helm of ABS-CBN News and Current affairs, for 6 years managing more than 1,000 journalists for the largest multi-platform news operation in the Philippines. Her work aimed to redefine journalism by combining traditional broadcast, new media and mobile phone technology for social change.

She taught courses in politics and media for her alma mater, Princeton University, as well as in broadcasting at the University of the Philippines. Her latest book, "From Bin Laden to Facebook," is part of her work as the Author-in-Residence and Senior Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence & Terrorism Research in Singapore. She was named the Southeast Asia Visiting Scholar at CORE Lab at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Despite documenting some of the worst disasters and uprisings in Southeast Asia, she believes in the goodness of human nature and in the transformative powers of media and technology.



**MS. MARIA RESSA**

President and CEO  
Rappler

Sunai Phasuk, senior researcher on Thailand in Human Rights Watch's Asia division, has specialized expertise in political, security and foreign policy analysis in the context of human rights and democratization in Thailand and Burma. His recent works include extensive investigation and analysis of violence and human rights abuses in Thailand's conflict-ridden southern border provinces. He is regularly called on to give commentary on those topics by governmental bodies in Thailand, embassies, and international agencies, including the United Nations, the European Commission, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Before joining Human Rights Watch, Phasuk worked as an advisor at the Thai Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs, and a spokesperson of the Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development. Phasuk graduated from University of Warwick's politics and international studies department. He speaks Thai.



**MR. SUNAI PHASUK**

Senior Researcher  
Asia Division, Human Rights  
Watch, Thailand

Laurence Lien is Co-Founder and CEO of the Asia Philanthropy Circle (APC), a membership-based platform for Asian philanthropists to exchange, learn and collaborate. Laurence is also the Chairman of Lien Foundation, a family foundation that has become well-regarded for its forward-thinking and radical approach in the fields of education, eldercare and the environment.

Laurence was the CEO of the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre in Singapore from 2008-2014, when he launched the Community Foundation of Singapore and is currently its Chairman. Prior to his work in the non-profit sector, Laurence served in the Singapore Government. Laurence holds degrees from Oxford University, the National University of Singapore, and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. He was also a Nominated Member of Parliament in Singapore from 2012-2014.



**MR. LAURENCE LIEN**

Co-founder and CEO  
Asia Philanthropy Circle,  
Singapore







**MR. AUGUSTO MICLAT, JR.**

Co-Founder  
Global Partnership for  
the Prevention of Armed  
Conflict Philippines

Gus Miclat is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), a regional advocacy, peacebuilding and solidarity organization based in the Philippines. IID conducts campaigns and handles programs focused on peace and democracy building and on the right to self-determination in Southeast Asia particularly on Burma, Mindanao, South Thailand, Timor-Leste and the region at large. He is a former journalist, editor, university lecturer, theater artist and organizer.

He was deeply involved in the broad anti-dictatorship and democratic front against the then Martial Law regime of Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos from the mid 1970s up to the late 1980s. He then helped organize the so-called "Middle Forces" and broad multi-sectoral coalitions in Mindanao composed of professionals, lawyers, church people, teachers, journalists, artists, businessmen and politicians. He has been involved in people's diplomacy and international solidarity work since 1985. Gus was a Humanities graduate at the Ateneo de Davao University, where he also taught journalism and theater, among others. He is an editor and contributor to some books, including: "From Boardroom to the Slums", "Out of the Valley of Dry Bones", "Beyond the Cold War", "Breaking the Silence", "East Timor for Beginners", "Primer on Globalization", "Burma for Beginners" and "APCET: Child of a People's Struggle."

In the Mindanao peace process, Gus presided with other civil society leaders over the establishment of key networks and coalitions among which are the Mindanao Peoples Caucus (MPC) – which was IID's Mindanao Program before it spun off independently in 2008–, Bantay Ceasefire, Mindanao Peaceweavers (MPW) and Friends of the Bangsamoro (FoBM). He convened the All-Out Peace (AOP) movement that aimed to galvanize a counter stream to the calls for an "all-out war" in the aftermath of the Mamasapano incident in January 2015. MPW and AOP continues to be engaged in the country's peace processes.

## Session 4 Plenary



**PLENARY CHAIR  
MS. MELINDA HOLMES**

Senior Adviser, International  
Civil Society Action Network  
(ICAN)

Program Manager, Women's  
Alliance for Security  
Leadership (WASL)

Melinda Holmes is a peacebuilding consultant, writer and policy advisor focusing on gender and political violence. She serves as senior adviser and program manager with the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) for Women's Rights, Peace and Security. In this capacity, she is responsible for ICAN's coordination of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) and is ICAN's focal point for co-leading the Global Solutions Exchange (GSX), a civil society led mechanism for structured and sustained dialogue with governments and multilateral organizations on the prevention of violent extremism.

Most recently based in London, Melinda was a Visiting Fellow at LSE's Centre for Women, Peace & Security during the 2016-2017 academic year. From 2013 to 2016, she worked with The Carter Center, where she advised on the engagement of religious and traditional beliefs, actors and communities in advancing peace and human rights, with a focus on women and girls. In 2012 to 2013, she conducted original anthropological research her master's thesis in Ghana examining the role of structural factors in Muslim leaders' approaches to peace and violence and exploring the evolution of religious leadership norms for. In 2010 and 2011, Melinda lived in Egypt where she served as a refugee legal case worker amid the exacerbated human security crisis brought on by the 2011 uprising.

Melinda graduated with a Master's in international affairs from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, focusing on the gendered and religious dynamics of violent conflict and peacebuilding.



**HON. ANGKHANA  
NEELAPAIJIT**

Commissioner  
National Human Rights  
Commission of Thailand

Angkhana Neelapaijit was born in Muslim family in Bangkok, Thailand, where she grew up and graduated from Santa Cruz Convent school and the Faculty of Nurse, Mahidol University. Angkhana became the Human Rights activist after her husband who is a prominent Human Rights Lawyer was kidnapped by a group of police officers and disappeared since 12 March, 2004. Angkhana is the founder and Chairwomen of Justice for Peace Foundation. Angkhana worked relentlessly to help victims of human rights abuses in Thailand especially in southernmost provinces where there have serious conflict and violent. The mission has made her one of the Thailand's most prominent human rights defenders. Because of her significant efforts in promoting Human Rights and Peace, Amnesty International has praised her as "A leading human rights defenders in the South of Thailand". Her dedication has won her many several international human rights awards, they include the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights and the honored by the European Parliament as "Women Human Rights Defender" on 2006, an honor "De Chevalier De l'Ordre de la Légion d'Honneur" from the French President Nicolas Sarkozy for her outstanding work in the human rights protection on December 2010. On July 2013, she awarded by the Senate House as "Prominent Women Human Rights Defender". On the human rights month December 2014, Angkhana Neelapaijit was honored by the UN Women as "Women of Achievement."

Angkhana also used to be the member of Constitutional Drafting committee and Member of Constitutional Assembly in 2007. At present she is the National Human Rights Commissioner of Thailand.

Visaka Dharmadasa is the founder and chair of the Association of War Affected Women and Parents of Servicemen Missing in Action. After her second son, a Sri Lankan military officer, went missing in action, she dedicated herself to teaching soldiers and community leaders about international standards related to the conduct of war. Specifically, she raises awareness about the importance of soldier's identification tags and treatment of prisoners, so that no mother has to endure an experience like her own.

Ms. Dharmadasa has designed and facilitated Track II dialogue processes in Sri Lanka. When talks were foundering and leaders of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam refused to speak with members of the Sri Lankan government and Norwegian negotiators, they asked Ms. Dharmadasa to carry messages to the government. For this work, she was awarded InterAction's prestigious humanitarian award in 2006. In coordination with the "1000 Peace Women Across the Globe" movement, she was nominated for a collective Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

As a member of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, Ms. Dharmadasa monitored ceasefire violations in her country; she was also part of a team investigating violence in the north and east of Sri Lanka. As an advocate for the inclusion of women at all levels of peacebuilding and decision making, she trains women on power-sharing and how to run for political office.

Ms. Dharmadasa is Director of the board of the National Peace Council and People's Action for Free & Fair Elections of Sri Lanka. She also belongs to the following organizations: Inclusive Security's Women Waging Peace Network, the global advisory council of Women Thrive Worldwide, the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, the Civil Society Advisory Group of UN Women for the region, and the consultation taskforce on reconciliation mechanisms appointed by the government of Sri Lanka.

She holds a degree in negotiations and mediation skills from the US Institute for Peace and a degree in women and security from Harvard University.



**MS. VISAKA  
DHARMADASA**

Founder and Chair  
Association of War Affected  
Women and Parents of  
Servicemen Missing in  
Action, Sri Lanka

Kamala Chandrakirana, Indonesian advocate for human rights, justice, and democracy, has been a member of the United Nations Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice since 2011. She chaired Indonesia's Presidential National Commission on Violence against Women from 2003 to 2009. Her national and international roles include involvement in ESCAP-UN Women's Asia Pacific Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security and Asia Pacific Women Law and Development. She was a founder of Musawah, a global movement for equality and justice in the Muslim family. Chandrakirana served twice on ad hoc Indonesian presidential task forces: to address Indonesian migrant workers on death row abroad (2011) and to investigate the death of Munir, a prominent human rights defender (2005). She coordinates a national coalition of 50+ NGOs and individuals advocating for truth and justice for past human rights violations and is part of the governance structures of several civil society organizations. Chandrakirana is a Yale World Fellow.



**MS. KAMALA  
CHANDRAKIRANA**

Coordinator  
Koalisi Keadilan dan  
Pengungkapan Kebenaran  
(KKPK), Indonesia

Professor Samina Yasmeen is Director of the Centre for Muslim States and Societies and lectures in Political Science and International Relations in the School of Social and Cultural Studies, the University of Western Australia (UWA), Perth.

Professor Yasmeen is a specialist in political, and strategic developments in South Asia (particularly Pakistan), the role of Islam in world politics, and citizenship among immigrant women. She is the author of Understanding Muslim Identities: From Perceived Relative Exclusion to Inclusion (2008). The research focuses on Muslims in Australia. It was commissioned by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) and the Office of Multicultural Interests, Government of Western Australia, as part of the National Action Plan. She also conducted a large scale study on the Settlement Needs of Muslims living in Perth Metropolitan Area in the 1990s. Her research on social inclusion and exclusion dynamics focus primarily on Muslim women and Citizenship in Australia.

As a specialist on politico-strategic developments in South Asia, Professor Yasmeen has focused on the role of Islamisation in Pakistan's domestic and foreign policy. Her current research focuses on the role of Islamic militant groups, their prescriptions for social and political structures for Muslim states, and the implications of these ideas for Pakistan's stability and foreign policy. She has conducted research on groups including Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish Mohammad.



**PROFESSOR SAMINA  
YASMEEN**

Director  
Center for Muslim States  
and Societies (CMSS),  
University of Western  
Australia





**MS. MRA SABAI NYUN**

Program Director  
Rakhine Thahaya  
Association, Myanmar

Mra Sabai Nyun is the Chairperson and the Program Director of the Rakhine Thahaya Association. Mra Sabai Nyun hold the degrees in M.P.A. from Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University M. A (Social Work), and Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Bombay. She has experience as senior government personnel for more than 10 years and about 20 years of international development experience working extensively with government entities, UN agencies, INGOs, and local NGOs, as well as with community members, in establishing partnerships and building organizations as well as individual capacities. She has good network with government personnel in different ministries; maintained positive relationships and coordinated with local NGOs, other stakeholders, key program personnel on technical, administrative, managerial and financial support for effective program implementation and in accordance to standards and operational compliance. She has utilized different organizations' partnership approaches for linking with local civil society. She won Best Practices and Innovative Award in 2012, by Inter Action; A United Voice for Global Change / USA.



**MS. ANISA TAHA**

Coordinator  
Noorus Salam –  
Central Mindanao

Anisa Taha is the coordinator of Noorus Salam, a network of Aleemat or Muslim women, religious scholars, women leaders, peace advocates, and women organizations. The network aims to effectively mobilize the women sector in advancing the desired peace and development in Muslim Mindanao and other Muslim communities in the country.

## Session 5 Plenary



**PLENARY CHAIR  
AMBASSADOR ONG  
KENG YONG**

Executive Deputy Chairman  
S. Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies (RSIS),  
Singapore

Ambassador Ong Keng Yong is Executive Deputy Chairman of the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies at the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Concurrently, he is Ambassador-at-Large at the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, non-resident High Commissioner to Pakistan and non-resident Ambassador to Iran. Mr Ong also serves as Chairman of the Singapore International Foundation (SIF). Mr Ong was High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia from 2011 to 2014. He served as Secretary-General of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), based in Jakarta, Indonesia from January 2003 to January 2008.

Mr. Ong started his diplomatic career in 1979 and was posted to the Singapore Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the United States of America. He was Singapore's High Commissioner to India and concurrently Ambassador to Nepal from 1996 to 1998. From September 1998 to December 2002, he was Press Secretary to the then Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Goh Chok Tong. At the same time, Mr. Ong held senior appointments in the Ministry of Information, Communications and the Arts, and the People's Association in Singapore. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Director of the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) in the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

Mr. Ong graduated from the then University of Singapore with a LLB (Hons) and the Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA) with a MA in Arab Studies.



**MR. MUHAMMAD  
SAIFUL ALAM SHAH BIN  
SUDIMAN**

Associate Research Fellow  
International Centre for  
Political Violence and  
Terrorism Research, RSIS,  
Singapore

Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah Bin Sudiman is an Associate Research Fellow at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, NTU. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Islamic Theology at Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Egypt in 2003. He later obtained his Masters Degree in Counselling from Monash University in 2009 and Masters of Science in International Relations from RSIS, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore in 2014 under the school's Study Award.

Prior to this, he was active in social activities as a member of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore associate member of Fatwa (Islamic legal ruling) committee, arbitrator and resource panel for Syariah Court Singapore, Board of Visitor of Singapore Armed Forces Detention Barrack. He is an active member of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore Appeal Board and religious counsellor of the Singapore's Religious Rehabilitation Group (RRG) and has been engaging detained and former terrorists for more than ten years now. Saiful is also a member of UNCT Counter-Terrorism Advisors, with special expertise on religious rehabilitation.

Jasmine Jawhar is currently a Research Officer at the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia. She holds a B.A. (Hons) Degree in International Relations from the University of Queensland, Australia in 2010 and a Certificate in Terrorism Studies from the University of St. Andrews, Scotland in 2015. In 2016, she published a monograph entitled 'Terrorists' Use of the Internet: The Case of Daesh' and co-authored a monograph entitled 'The Lahad Datu Incursion and Its Impact on Malaysia's Security'. Her areas of research include security of Sabah's eastern seaboard, terrorism and the Internet as well as online recruitment of terrorists.



**MS. JASMINE BINTI  
MOHAMED JAWHAR**

Assistant Director  
Research and Publications,  
South East Asia Regional  
Centre for Counter-  
Terrorism (SEARCCT),  
Malaysia

Prof. Dr. Aruna Gopinath was born in Kuala Lumpur and educated at the St. Teresa's Convent and the Bukit Nanas Convent. She graduated from the University of Malaya with a B. A. degree in 1974 and the M. A. degree in 1978.

She was selected to pursue Philippine Studies for her doctorate at the University of the Philippines, Diliman as an ASEAN Scholar. She graduated as a President Scholar in 1984. Her areas of expertise are in Philippine politics, Southeast Asian politics, Gender studies, Minority problems, peace processes and conflict resolution.

For her vast and significant work, she has been recognized by various organizations all over the world. To name a few, she was honored by the International American Educational Biographical Board as one of the Great Women Leaders of the 21st Century in 2005 and has an entry in the Encyclopedia of Women Leaders. In 2011, she was selected Woman of the Year for Malaysia by the same Board. In 2012, she was given the award, Ambassador for Peace by the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban Kim Munt at the Universal Peace Federation for her activities in South Philippines in the field of conflict resolution.

Dr. Gopinath taught at the Department of History, University of Malaya since 1974 and retired in 2007 after a service of 32 years. She was the Head of the Department of Politics and International Relations at HELP University from 2007-2009 but was invited by the National Defense University of Malaysia to be a Senior Fellow and Consultant at the Center of Defense and Strategic Studies in 2009. Since then, she has been a resource person in the field of Strategic Studies for Southeast Asia.

Dr. Gopinath believes in rendering her services to organizations geared towards the upliftment of education in this country.



**DR. ARUNA GOPINATH**

Professor  
National Defense University,  
Malaysia

Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo is the President of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID). She is a member of the Board of Regents of the Mindanao State University (MSU).

**MS. AMINA RASUL  
BERNARDO**

President  
Philippine Center for Islam  
and Democracy (PCID)

Romadon Panjor is a Bangkok-based journalist, currently the editor of Deep South Watch (DSW), a Pattani based think-tank unit monitoring the violent conflict and encouraging peace process in the region. He is also a researcher for the Nonviolence Strategic Committee's Thailand Research Fund (TRF), studying national and regional conflict and contributing policy papers to policy makers. He also worked with the Special Report Team of Manager Daily newspaper and Manager Online, covering investigative topics, among them is the special report on the conflict in the deep south of Thailand (Patani region). Recently, he completed a Master's Degree in Political Science in Thammasat University and researched on the politics of words in ethno-political conflict.



**MR. ROMADON PANJOR**

Editor  
Deep South Watch,  
Thailand

## Breakout Session 2



**DR. ICHSAN MALIK**

Conflict Resolution  
Facilitator,  
Samdhana Institute

### ACADEMIA | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Ichsan Malik is a leading facilitator for mediation, conflict resolution who holds fast to his values of developing local leadership in peace building, particularly in times of extreme crisis in politics and resources allocation in Maluku, Poso, Aceh.

Specializing in conflict management, as a psychologist, Ichsan's skills maximizes the benefits of local partnerships, trust building and long-term commitment to eliciting local knowledge in understanding conflict. In the popular Maluku 'Baku Bae' (referring to an agreement to make peace) one can witness Ichsan's strategic role to draw Christian and Muslim groups to one negotiating table. Ichsan set up Peace Building Programs (since 2003, ongoing), in Maluku Baku Bae, in Poso, Central Sulawesi, as a Facilitator responsible for carrying out workshops for combatants, journalists, lawyers, religious/traditional leaders, NGOs.

Ichsan also led a Peace Facilitator Education Program for Community Based Rapid Response to Conflict Prevention in 7 Provinces: Central Sulawesi, East Sulawesi, Maluku, North Maluku, Nusa Tenggara Barat, Nusa Tenggara Timur and set up a Conflict Early Warning System in 3 Provinces, Aceh, Ambon and West Kalimantan with ITP. In this capacity, Ichsan has served as Team Leader since 2003.



**DR. JAMHARI MAKRUH**

Advisor  
Pusat Pengkajian Islam  
dan Masyarakat (PPIM),  
Indonesia

### ACADEMIA | THOUGHT LEADER 2

Dr. Jamhari Makruf is the Chair of Indonesia's national Taskforce on Islamic Education Reform and Vice Rector at the State Islamic University (Universitas Islam Negeri Syarif Hidayatullah - UIN) in Jakarta.

Dr. Makruf has led a major, nationwide effort to reform Indonesia's Islamic tertiary system, introducing an unprecedented new curriculum that will integrate secular sciences with the Islamic religious studies traditionally taught. He has used his own university as a model for these reforms. In doing so, Dr. Makruf's intent is to combat extremist thought, at the same time seeking to better equip the hundreds of thousands of Muslims who graduate every year from these universities with the skills they need to compete in a fast-transforming economy.

Dr. Makruf is the author of numerous publications on Islamic education. He obtained his PhD in Anthropology from the Australian National University in 2000, after completing a Master's Degree by research there in 1996. His undergraduate degree in Islamic Theology was obtained from the State Islamic Institute in Jakarta in 1990. In addition to two AusAID scholarships, Dr. Makruf won a Fulbright Scholarship to the University of Boston in 2004. He was selected for an Asian Leaders Fellowship by the Japan Foundation (2008) and has received significant research grants from the Japan Science Research Program (2005-8) and the Japan ASEAN Integrative Fund (2008-2011). In 2008, he was a finalist in the Australian Embassy's 'Best Australian Alumni' Awards.

At Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat (PPIM), he served as a director, researcher and currently, advisor.



**DR. CAROLYN  
SOBRITCHEA**

Chair  
Technical Panel for Gender  
and Women's Studies,  
Commission on Higher  
Education, Philippines

### ACADEMIA | FACILITATOR

Dr. Carolyn Sobritchea is currently a professorial lecturer at University of the Philippines for the UP Asian Center. Her research interests include: Asian regional studies on gender, human rights, health, curriculum development and policy reforms. She has spoken in the United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women and was a panelist for the topic "the accountability and participation of women and girls in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals." She is also the Chair of the Technical Panel for Gender and Women's Studies of the Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. Sobritchea was a former Dean of the UP Asian Center. She completed her Doctoral in Anthropology in State University of New York, has a masteral degree on Asian Studies from University of the Philippines Diliman, and a bachelor's degree on Anthropology in University of the Philippines Diliman.

### YOUTH | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Robi Sugara is Executive Director at The Indonesian Muslim Crisis Center (IMC2) based in Jakarta since 2015. He is also a professor, researcher and journalist whose topics of interest include contemporary global issues, war, conflict resolution and peace studies; terrorism, radicalism, jihad, and fundamentalism, to name a few.

He served as a research analyst at the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, RSIS-NTU, Singapore and a researcher at the Yayasan Prasasti Perdamaian Institute for International Peace Building – an NGO that deals with peace and conflict, political violence, terrorism and related transnational conflict and peace issues in Jakarta, Indonesia. He was also editor in chief at Nusa Magazine & Online media, a monthly national magazine about law and politics.

Robi earned his master's degree in Strategic Studies at S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University (NTU) Singapore.



**MR. ROBI SUGARA**

Executive Director  
Muslim Crisis Centre,  
Indonesia

### YOUTH | THOUGHT LEADER 2

Theresa Fe S. Oliver, born in Agusan del Sur, is a passionate youth organizer and training officer at Panaghiusa Alang sa Kaugalingnan ug Kalingawasan (PASAKK Inc.). She is also a member of various organizations that support youth development such as Generation Peace Youth Network Member and Community of Practitioners (CoP) on Non-Violent Conflict Transformation, and KPAKK Youth Organization Leader (Poblacion Area). She has received training in Program and Budget Management, Peace and Human Rights on-violent Conflict Transformation and Psychological First Aid (PFA), to name a few.



**MS. THERESA FE OLIVER**

Youth Organizer and  
Training Officer  
Panaghiusa Alang Sa  
Kaugalingnan ug  
Kalingawasan  
(PASAKK), Inc.

### YOUTH | FACILITATOR

Marc Batac (Philippines) is the coordinator of the regional program of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), and of the Southeast Asia network of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC-SEA), a civil society-led network of peacebuilding practitioners, advocates and experts who seek to build consensus and collective action on human security, peacebuilding and the prevention of violent conflict in the region. He also currently sits as a Steering Committee member-at-large of the Generation Peace Youth Network-Philippines.

He took up Political Science in the University of the Philippines - Diliman, and then after, attended its college of law. His primary interests are the study of dialogical processes, right to self-determination, and social movements.



**MR. MARC BATAC**

Regional Liaison Officer  
Global Partnership  
for the Prevention of  
Armed Conflict (GPPAC),  
Philippines

### WOMEN | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Rafia Bhulai is a Senior Programs Officer for the Global Center on Cooperative Security, New York. She conducts research and analysis, manages programs, and helps shape policy related to the Global Center's work on preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism. Her work focuses on advancing the role of civil society and city-level officials as well as the inclusion of a gender perspective in prevention efforts, particularly in Africa and Asia. Rafia holds an MA from the School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Seton Hall University and BA in political science from Florida International University



**MS. RAFIA BHULAI**

Senior Programs Officer  
Global Center on  
Cooperative Security,  
New York



**ATTY. MA. CECILIA  
JIMENEZ- DAMARY**

UN Special Rapporteur  
for the Human Rights of  
Internally Displaced Persons  
(IDPs)

#### **WOMEN | THOUGHT LEADER 2**

Cecilia Jimenez-Damary is a human rights lawyer specialised in forced displacement and migration. Ms. Jimenez-Damary has over two decades of experience in NGO human rights advocacy for the Asia-Pacific region and also has teaching experience as an adjunct professor of international human rights and humanitarian law. Ms. Jimenez-Damary previously acted as Senior Legal Adviser and Trainer with the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in Geneva; as the National Director of the IDP Project of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines; and more recently as the government representative to the Philippine Transitional Justice and Reconciliation Commission. Ms. Jimenez-Damary was appointed Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons by the Human Rights Council in September 2016 and assumed the mandate on 1 November 2016.



**DR. SOCORRO REYES**

Center for Legislative  
Development (CLD) &  
Legislative Consultant

#### **WOMEN | FACILITATOR**

Dr. Socorro L. Reyes is a policy analyst, governance adviser, legislative specialist and women's rights advocate. She is an international consultant on public policy and governance, social development and gender equality. At present, she is the Regional Gender and Governance Adviser of the Center for Legislative Development. She is also Chief Policy Adviser of Representative Rodolfo Albano III (First District, Isabela).

She was Chief of the Asia-Pacific and Arab States of UN WOMEN, New York for six years (2005-2011) where she directly supervised four sub-regional offices in East and Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Pacific, Arab States and North Africa. She was UNDP Senior Gender Adviser to the Government of Pakistan for three years (2001-2004) where she designed the capacity development program for 36,000 women councilors and conceptualized the Women's Political School. She was also Director of Gender and Governance of the New York-based Women's Environment and Development Organization (1999-2001) and spearheaded the Global Campaign for "50-50 Get the Balance Right!". She was the founding President and Executive Director of the Congressional Research and Training Service (1988-1999), the first non-governmental legislative support services organization established to provide assistance to the first post-martial law Congress. She taught Political Science at De La Salle University for over 20 years (1971-1991) and was the first Chairperson of the Department of Political Science.

Dr. Reyes has written and published numerous articles and monographs on Women's Political Participation. Her recent publication is on "Gender Assessment of the Legislative Structures and Processes of Selected Southeast Asian Countries from a CEDAW Perspective." Among her present research interests are: 1) "Building the Women's Vote" to look into the extent to which women's votes decided the results of the 2016 national and local elections; 2) "Gender and Electoral System Reform"; and 3) "Gender Analysis of the Drug War."

Among her current advocacies are: 1) passage of the Bangsamoro Enabling Law through the Women Peace Collective; 2) feminist solidarity against extrajudicial killings through the recently formed BAIGANI; 3) Truth and Justice for Sen. Leila de Lima through the Fuchsia and Purple Movement and EveryWoman.



**REV. FR. JOEL TABORA, S.J.**

President  
Ateneo de Davao University

#### **RELIGIOUS | THOUGHT LEADER 1**

Rev. Fr. Joel E. Tabora S.J., began his tenure as the fourth president of the Ateneo de Davao University in June 2011.

Father Tabora was born in Manila in 26 September 1947. He entered the Society of Jesus in 16 July 1965 and is a graduate of Leopold-Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria, and Ateneo de Manila University. His doctorate is in Philosophy and his particular expertise focuses on Karl Marx.

Prior to his appointment at Ateneo de Davao University, Father Tabora served as President of Ateneo de Naga University (1999-2011). Early in his career, Father Tabora was an instructor at Ateneo de Manila University, Rector of the San Jose Seminary (1989-1995), and President of Loyola School of Theology (1994-1999).

He currently serves as a trustee at Xavier University (Cagayan de Oro City), Ateneo de Zamboanga University (Zamboanga City), Catholic Ministry for Deaf People, Philippine Jesuit Foundation, Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) and Davao Association of Catholic Schools (DACS-CEAP XI). He is also

the President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities in Asia Pacific (AJCU-AP). He also serves as President of Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) and the Davao Association of Catholic Schools (DACS), and the National Vice President of CEAP. He serves as member of the International Committee on Jesuit Higher Education. He is the Jesuit Province Assistant for Education. He is the Chair of CEAP's Social Advocacy Committee, and member of Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel for General Education.

He was a trustee of Ateneo de Manila University (1994-2002, 2005-2011), East Asian Pastoral Institute (1994-1999), Asian Institute of Management (2004-2007), Environmental Science for Social Change (1997-2001), a delegate to the 34th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus (1995, Rome). He was the Chair of Catholic Ministry for Deaf People (1996-2009), Loyola College of Culion (2008-2011), Philippine Province of the Society of Jesus Committee on Evangelization of Culture (2001-2004), President of COCOPEA-Bikol (2004-2009), Treasurer (2004-2008) and President (2008-2010) of Bikol Association of Catholic Schools, Vice President of Bikol Foundation for Higher Education, President of Catholic Educational Association of Caceres and Libmanan (2003-2008), President of Kristong Hari Foundation (1988-2005) and former COCOPEA Chair (2016-2017).

Throughout his career, Father Tabora has demonstrated a commitment to "whole person formation", social justice and spirituality: traditional hallmarks of Jesuit education.

## RELIGIOUS | THOUGHT LEADER 2

Mr. Shafqat Mehmood is the Founder and Chairperson of PAIMAN Alumni Trust, an organization established in 2004 to promote women emancipation politically, economically and socially.

He is one of PAIMAN's most experienced peace practitioner and activists by virtue of his expertise and involvement in designing, planning and direct implementation of peace interventions in conflict zones in Pakistan. He pioneered the group's model of community engagement for P/CVE, which has received international recognition, declared as the best practice initiative by EU and has been replicated in Afghanistan, Somalia with the technical support of PAIMAN. Mr. Mehmood has extensive experience in working with extremist youth and vulnerable groups. He is highly skilled psycho-social counseling as well as de-radicalization processes which are quite innovative and unique in execution.

He obtained a Master's Degree in Strategic Studies from the National Defense University, Islamabad and is a graduate of the Armed Forces Defense College in Toronto, Canada. He has served in the defense forces for 33 years and retired in 2001 as Brigadier General.



**MR. SHAFQAT MEHMOOD**

Chairperson  
PAIMAN Alumni Trust,  
Islamabad, Pakistan

## RELIGIOUS | FACILITATOR

Mohammad Alami Musa is Singapore's Non-Resident Ambassador to Algeria. He is currently the Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies at the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). He is concurrently the Non-Executive President of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore and Honorary Business Representative for Middle East and North Africa for International Enterprise Singapore (IE Singapore). In addition, he is a member of the Ministry of Home Affairs Resource Panel on Religious Harmony and the Independent Review Panel and the Ministry of Education Committee to Review National Education in schools.

Ambassador Alami was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal in 2015 and the Public Administration Medal (Silver) in 2010. He received "Achiever of Year" award in 2015 for his contributions to the Singapore Muslim Community. In the same year, he was appointed Justice of Peace.

He graduated with Bachelor of Engineering (Civil) in 1979 from the University of Singapore. He received his Master of Science (Civil Engineering) in 1981.



**AMBASSADOR  
MOHAMMAD ALAMI  
MUSA**

Head of Studies in Inter-  
Religious Relations in Plural  
Societies Programme,  
S. Rajaratnam School of  
International Studies (RSIS),  
Singapore





**MR. RODOLFO G. BIAZON**

Former Senator  
Philippines

#### POLITICAL | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Rodolfo Biazon became Senator in the Ninth Congress from 1992 up to 1995. He was again elected as Senator in 1998 and continues to serve his term up to this day. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security and Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement. Aside from this, he holds the following positions in the Senate: Vice-Chair of the Committees on Agriculture and Food and Foreign Relations, and a Member of 15 other Senate Committees. He is also the President of the Asian Regional Council Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, the Vice-President for Asia Global Parliamentarians on Habitat, the Co-chairperson of PLCPD and a member of the Commission on Appointments.

As a Senator, he authored bills which were enacted into law, notably concerning anti-trafficking, the Filipino soldiers' benefits and rights, the modernization of the AFP, and the establishment of the University of the Philippines Mindanao. Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon continues to draft bills which center on providing low cost housing and advocating bills for the benefit of Filipino soldiers.



**MAYOR ZAMZAMIN  
AMPATUAN,**

Municipality of Rajah Buayan,  
Maguindanao, Philippines

#### POLITICAL | THOUGHT LEADER 2

A peace advocate, Datu Zamzamin Ampatuan is the Mayor of Rajah Buayan, Maguindanao. Under his leadership, the municipality was awarded a Certificate of Recognition by the Department of Interior and Local Government for having achieved effective governance in peace and order.

Datu Ampatuan has held various government positions. He served as provincial director of Department of Trade and Industry in Maguindanao, administrator of the Southern Philippines Development Administration, executive director of the Office of Muslim Affairs, lead convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and undersecretary for the Department of Energy.

He is also a licensed civil engineer.



**DR. NATHAN GILBERT  
QUIMPO**

Associate Professor  
Humanities and Social Sciences,  
University of Tsukuba

#### POLITICAL | FACILITATOR

Nathan Gilbert Quimpo, a long-time political activist in the Philippines before turning to an academic career, is currently an associate professor of political science and international relations at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. He has taught at the University of the Philippines, University of Amsterdam and Sophia University (Tokyo). Quimpo has authored *Contested Democracy and the Left in the Philippines* after Marcos (Yale University Southeast Asia Studies and Ateneo de Manila University Press, 2008), co-authored *Subversive Lives: A Family Memoir of the Marcos Years* (Ohio University Press, 2016, and Anvil 2012), and co-edited *The U.S. and the War on Terror in the Philippines* (Anvil, 2008) and *The Politics of Change in the Philippines* (Anvil, 2010). He has published articles in *Comparative Politics*, *Pacific Review*, *Asian Survey*, *Southeast Asian Affairs*, *Critical Asian Studies* and *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs*. His research and teaching interests include: democracy, democratization and democratic governance; conflict and peace studies; political corruption; and Southeast Asian politics.



**MS. MARIA AURORA  
GEOTINA-GARCIA,**

Board Adviser  
Women's Business Council-  
Philippines

Chairperson  
Philippine Women's  
Economic Network

#### BUSINESS | THOUGHT LEADER 1

Ma. Aurora "Boots" D. Geotina-Garcia is currently the President of CIBACAPITAL Philippines Inc., the Philippine affiliate of CBA-Asia, a regional multidisciplinary professional services organization with other operations in Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand. CIBACAPITAL provides business advisory and corporate finance services. She is the Chairperson of the Women's Business Council of the Philippines -an advocacy group composed of the country's top women business leaders and entrepreneurs. Chairperson Garcia is also currently the President of Mageo Consulting, Inc., a company providing business advisory and corporate finance services. In 2015, she was appointed as Chairperson of Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Ms. Garcia is a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors, and a member of various professional organizations which include the Management Association of the Philippines and the Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Ms. Garcia obtained her BS degree in Business Administration and Accountancy and her Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of the Philippines.

**BUSINESS | THOUGHT LEADER 2**

John Perrine is the Chairman of the Unifrutti Group Philippines, operating banana farms located across 8 provinces of Mindanao, both corporate and working with small farmer/ARB cooperatives. He has directed initiatives that generated economic opportunities for people in that area. He led substantial investments inside the Bangsamoro, with 1,250 hectares bananas at Datu Paglas, Maguindano in 1996, followed by additional investments in Wao & Bumbaran, Lanao del Sur in 2003/2004. Additional on-going expansion of 2,600 hectares in Talayan, Guindulungan, Buldon, Datu Angal, and Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao has also commenced in November 2014 under Al Sahar Agri Ventures Inc. The Perrine Management group (through Al Raziq Services Inc) is also assisting other investors to invest in the Bangsamoro. He has also worked on a wide range of agricultural crops in the Philippines including tomato, asparagus, coffee.

Mr. Perrine was appointed by the ARMM Regional Board of Investments as ARMM Business Investments Advisor from 2014 to date. He is also Project coordinator through the group's Hineleban Foundation for 44,000 hectares of Reforestation in the provinces of Bukidnon and Wao/Bumbaran, Lanao del Sur. This project works mainly with the IP's, providing food self-sufficiency and sustainable cash crops (coffee & abaca), to provide them with alternative livelihoods so they can be restored as Custodians of the Rainforest

**MR. JOHN PERRINE**

Chairman  
Unifrutti Group Philippines

**BUSINESS | FACILITATOR**

Atty. Benedicto, Jr. is Vice President and Corporate Secretary of Benedicto Steel Group comprising of Benedicto Steel Corporation, CLB Engineering & Supply, Inc, and CLB Global Trading Corporation.; Corporate Secretary of Victoria Manufacturing Corporation, Globe Commodities, Inc., Philippine Kidney Dialysis Foundation, Inc. (PKDF).

He is in-house counsel for Maritech Training Studies & Manning Services, and Masters & Mates Association of the Philippines, which is the accredited professional organization for marine deck officers. He is Managing Partner in Hernandez Benedicto Oliveros & Associates Law Offices, and partner in GOTB Logistics & Services, which is a customs brokerage.

**ATTY. CEFERINO BENEDICTO, JR.**

Corporate Secretary  
Chamber of Commerce of  
the Philippine Islands (CCPI)

**SECURITY: SSC/SSR AND PVE FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE | THOUGHT LEADER 1 (CHALLENGES)**

Jennifer Santiago Oreta, PhD is currently an Assistant Professor of the Department of Political Science of the Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines.

Under the administration of Pres. Benigno S. Aquino (2010-2016), she was appointed as Assistant Secretary for Policy in the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP). As Asst. Secretary, she was responsible in mainstreaming the government's peace policy and strategy with relevant government agencies and civilian stakeholders but with special emphasis on the military and police institutions. She was tasked to generate strategy papers on security issues, and develop programs that would address the needs of former rebels and communities affected by armed conflict. She was also the focal person of OPAPP on matters relative to countering terrorism/ violent extremism. The Knowledge Management and Resource Center (KMRC) Unit of OPAPP, the unit responsible in producing knowledge products, was also established under her watch and was closely supervised by her office.

She is currently the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Security Reform Initiative (SRI), a think-tank and program management unit dedicated to policy research and program development on matters of security reform and governance.

She is a member of the Multi-Sector Governance Council (MSGC) of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and the Multi-Sectoral Advisory Board (MSAB) of the Philippine Army. Both bodies provide assistance and guidance to the military establishment in its quest to modernize and professionalize the institution.

She has extensive research background on security governance, political armed violence, community-based policing, countering violent extremism, and women and security

**DR. JENNIFER SANTIAGO ORETA**

Chairman  
Board of Trustees, Security  
Reform Initiative (SRI)



**DR. ARIES A. ARUGAY**

Associate Professor  
Department of  
Political Science  
University of the Philippines,  
Diliman

#### **SECURITY: SSG/SSR AND PVE FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE | THOUGHT LEADER 2 (OPPORTUNITIES)**

Aries A. Arugay is Associate Professor and Graduate Program Coordinator of the Department of Political Science, University of the Philippines Diliman. He is also Executive Director of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Inc., a nongovernmental policy research institute focused on domestic and regional security and development issues.

He has a BA and MA in Political Science from UP Diliman and a PhD in Political Science from Georgia State University (Atlanta, USA). He joined UP Diliman in 2001 where he teaches courses on Philippine politics, comparative politics, international relations, politics of Latin America, political thought, and research methods. He is also Senior Editor of Asian Politics & Policy and a member of the Advisory Board of the Philippine Studies Group of the Association for Asian Studies.

He received several awards such as the 2012 International Student of the Year from Georgia State University. In 2015, he was selected as a Young Southeast Asian Fellow from the US-based Southeast Asia Research Group. He has received grants and fellowships from Fulbright, the Consortium for Non-Traditional Security in Asia, the Global Consortium on Security Transformation, the Empowering Network for International Thai Studies, and the Philippine Social Science Council.

His research interests include comparative democratization, civil society and contentious politics, civil-military relations, security sector reform, electoral politics, and institutional design. His doctoral dissertation investigated the role of civil society mobilization during regime crises in Southeast Asia and Latin American democracies. He has conducted fieldwork research in the Philippines, Thailand, Bolivia, and Venezuela. His latest publication is a co-authored chapter with Aim Sinpeng titled "The middle class and democracy in Southeast Asia" included in The Routledge Handbook of Southeast Asian Democratization (2015).

**DR. MELY CABALLERO-ANTHONY**

Associate Professor and  
Head of the Centre for Non-  
Traditional Security (NTS)  
Studies, S. Rajaratnam  
School of International  
Studies (RSIS), Singapore

#### **SECURITY: SSG/SSR AND PVE FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE | THOUGHT LEADER 2 (THE WAY FORWARD)**

Mely Caballero-Anthony is Associate Professor and Head of the Centre for Non-Traditional Security (NTS) Studies at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. She is also Secretary-General of the Consortium on Non-Traditional Security Studies in Asia. Prof. Anthony is a member and recently served as Chair of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters, as well as Chair of the Board of Trustees of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. Until May 2012, she also served as Director of External Relations at the ASEAN Secretariat and until recently, was member of the World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Agenda Council on Conflict Prevention.

Prof. Anthony's research interests include regionalism and regional security in the Asia-Pacific, multilateral security cooperation, politics and international relations in ASEAN, conflict prevention and management, as well as human security. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals on a broad range of security issues in the Asia-Pacific.

**DR. ALBRECHT SCHNABEL**

Head  
Asia-Pacific Unit, Geneva  
Centre for the Democratic  
Control of Armed Forces  
(DCAF)

#### **SECURITY: SSG/SSR AND PVE FROM A REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE | FACILITATOR**

Albrecht Schnabel is Head of the Asia-Pacific Unit at the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). He also serves as Senior Fellow in DCAF's Policy and Research Division, and as Research Associate at the Global Health Centre (GHC) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies.

Mr. Schnabel's research and publications have focused on ethnic conflict, human security, armed non-state actors, conflict prevention and management, peacekeeping, post-conflict peacebuilding, peace processes, health security, and conceptual, urban and development dimensions of SSG/R. Other than this, he currently co-leads the GHC-DCAF project on "The Security Sector and Global Health Crises"; a role he has undertaken since 2015.

His operational work focuses on security sector governance and reform (SSG/R), particularly its development and post-conflict dimensions, with a regional focus on Southeast Asia and the broader Asia-Pacific region.

Among his extensive background and experiences, he has notably worked for the United Nations as an Academic Officer in the Peace and Governance Programme of the United Nations University, Tokyo, Japan from 1998-2003. Albrecht also studied comparative politics and international relations at the University of Munich, the University of Nevada, and Queen's University, Canada, where he received his PhD in Political Studies in 1995.



## ANNEX E

### Selected Speeches

#### **Welcome Remarks**

by Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

Distinguished colleagues, friends and guests.

Good morning.

Thank you for this opportunity for RSIS to join the PCID and the Philippines authorities in convening this important conference.

In the field of political and security cooperation among ASEAN countries, including the Philippines and Singapore, we have always desired for a region where countries live in peace with each other and with the world, strengthening the just, democratic and harmonious environment for our respective nations to flourish and prosper.

However, recent global and regional developments have threatened the peace and harmony we seek to achieve. In particular, terror attacks by the so-called "Islamic State" - most recently in various European cities - have created considerable alarm and a rising sense of insecurity all around.

All these attacks have been closely linked with the growth and subsequent decline of the so-called Islamic State in the battle fields in Syria and Iraq. Many European foreign fighters are returning home, war-hardened and bringing networks of militancy with them.

But Europe is not alone in this. In our region of Southeast Asia, there are an estimated 1,000 fighters that have previously travelled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State. That led to the development of a Malay language publication last year to attract Indonesian and Malaysian jihadists to its cause. The so-called Islamic State also established a brigade called Katibah Nusantara, made up of Malay-speaking militants from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

These 1,000 fighters will need a home to return to if and when the so-called Islamic State is defeated in the Middle East.





The ongoing battle in Marawi in the Southern Philippines underlines this threat. It was reported that Malaysians, Indonesians, and even possibly Arabs participated in battles in Marawi in late May this year.

This fight in the south will be vital, as victory for the Islamic State might allow them to declare a province, a “Wilayat” right in the middle of Southeast Asia. Alternatively, a long drawn out conflict will lead to more polarization and pockets of radicalization to take root in our region.

This is why the team from RSIS in Singapore is very keen to discuss solutions to the problem of violent extremism. We are happy to contribute to more research and understanding of the challenges and the way going forward. I am confident through this important initiative, with the meeting of top practitioners and thinkers, as well as civil society leaders and representatives, we can work purposefully towards consolidating peace and harmony in ASEAN.

Thank you.





## Welcome Remarks

by Ambassador Delia D. Albert

Good Morning distinguished guests/ ladies and gentlemen.

I thank the organizers of the conference for inviting the ASEAN Society of the Philippines to partner in this timely and relevant conference on the subject of Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia.

Let me identify who we are. My role is to introduce ASP

What, why and who we are you may ask is ASEAN Society: Philippines?

Briefly we are a newly organized group of individuals who have been participating in building ASEAN for the past 50 years and who we are keen to contribute our experience, knowledge and perhaps, modest aside, some wisdom in moving ASEAN through the next decades.

In essence, ASEAN Society is a civil society organization which aims to link the main pillars of the evolving ASEAN Community, namely the ASEAN Political and Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community into a discussion that bridges societies across sectors to work together toward greater awareness and education about ASEAN as a region of growth and opportunity for all.

It likewise caters to a wider audience base, through institutional and grassroots exchanges, in order to create synergistic solutions that promote greater understanding through cultures, traditions and values of ASEAN member countries.

While it is private-sector led, ASEAN Society aims to collaborate with public sector partners and institutions, with the goal of becoming an affiliated organization with the national and regional ASEAN Secretariats.

This affiliation will ensure that the ASEAN Society will be kept informed and guided by major ASEAN decisions and policies as well as participate in ASEAN-related activities. This would also ensure that the initiatives of the ASEAN Society is aligned with and supplements the participation of the Philippines in ASEAN.

Through our participation in this conference we hope to be able to contribute to the initiative of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Council in promoting a "Culture of Prevention Agenda", as stated in the 30<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit, an important





cross-cutting issue affecting all pillars of the ASEAN Community which aims to realize the potential contribution of relevant sectorial frameworks under the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community in preventing violent extremism and other forms of violence at their root causes in a more coordinated and systematic approach in accordance with the ASEAN charter and principles.





## Opening Ceremonies Speech

by Ms. Amina Rasul Bernardo

President, Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID)

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Secretary Jesus Dureza, Secretary Hermogenes Esperon Jr, Ambassador Delia Albert, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, former Senators Santanina Rasul and Rodolfo Biazon, Undersecretary Catalino Cuy, Assistant Secretary Grunhald, Your Excellencies of the diplomatic corps, partners, ladies and gentlemen;

On behalf of the organizers—the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy, the ASEAN Society- Philippines, the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, welcome to the Conference for Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in South East Asia!

Many of you have flown great distances to join us today to address how to achieve a common goal—peace and the security of our peoples. Many of you have travelled from areas of conflict to discuss how to move forward and ensure that what happened in your communities will never happen again – not to you, not to other communities. I particularly wish to express our gratitude to our friends from the beleaguered Islamic City of Marawi and Rhakine State of Myanmar.

Ladies and Gentlemen, ASEAN member states are facing new challenges as the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) enter its borders. Here, in the Philippines, the current Marawi crisis has shown the devastation brought by violent extremism, its threat to democracy, and the need for its prevention through good policies and action plans. The likelihood of upcoming attacks still looms in the horizon and it is crucial that the country be prepared in dealing with a plague that is capable of destroying and even wiping out a peace-loving civilization.

It has been months since the Marawi siege began, and its residents - Muslims and Christians alike - are hoping that peace and order will be attained. With the citizens expected to return home after the conflict, but with their homes and communities in ruins, there is a need not only for rehabilitation efforts but also for efforts to promote unity and healing among the peace loving communities of Muslims and Christians affected by the devastation. Hopefully soon, the





terrorists will be quelled; however, this does not mean that violent extremism will end by then. More importantly, there is an urgent need for efforts to prevent the build-up of extremist groups. I fear that the terrorist network will continue to recruit and lure, specially the youth of those areas affected by the bombings in Marawi and its neighboring areas as well. We are facing a threat that attacks democracy as we live our lives daily, a threat that spreads like wildfire without really showing itself until it is almost impossible to prevent – like the case of Marawi. Thus, it is imperative to prevent the build-up of extremist network in the country.

The Marawi siege is not only a domestic crisis but also an international catastrophe. There were reports that foreign militants joined the Marawi siege, a phenomenon that is also happening in other countries where foreign militants heinously perpetrate bombings in highly populated areas—the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, France, Thailand, etc... Violent extremism is therefore a danger common to the ASEAN community, a danger where each of us can pitch in and help our governments and ASEAN to formulate a national and regional action plan in the prevention of violent extremism.

On ASEAN's 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary, the PCID, the ASEAN Society, and the RSIS, in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) celebrate our one ASEAN community by organizing the Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia to address the challenges of the expanding influence of violent extremism in the region. I believe there is an effective preventive peaceful solution to address such a threat and that is what we shall determine and consolidate in this conference. We shall contribute to the solution, so that there shall be no repeat of Marawi in the Philippines nor anywhere in the ASEAN region; we shall prevent violent extremism and build a peaceful one ASEAN community.

As you came in to the conference hall, you must have noticed the display of clothes made of indigenous textiles, woven by women. We showcased a few examples to show the beauty of the cultures of our peoples. The Barong Batik, for instance, is of “jusi”, a Philippine textile shipped of the Indonesia to be hand stamped by the batik artists of Jogjakarta. A true ASEAN wearable art, bringing together the Philippines and Indonesia. The other attires are made of textiles handwoven by the women of Muslim Mindanao where each tribe has a different weaving tradition.





The women who wove these textiles have suffered from armed conflict and the beauty of our cultures stained by the blood of victims. In Marawi, the women weavers have lost their looms and thus their livelihoods. With this loss comes the possibility of losing altogether their weaving tradition. It will be a shame, nay a crime, to lose such beauty, such tradition because of armed conflict.

This conference, we hope, will galvanize our stakeholders—political leaders, the religious, business sector, academia, women and youth—to engage with government and protect our communities from the lure of violent extremism. We hope that these key sectors will establish relationships, crossing seas and mountains, to work together for the peace and security of our peoples and communities. We hope our governments and ASEAN will listen to us from civil society, and engage with us to work together in establishing a National as well as Regional Action Plan to prevent or counter violent extremism. It is a job not for government alone but for all of us.

Together—that is the ASEAN way. Sharing and Caring, that is the ASEAN way.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for being here, sharing and caring. Welcome to the conference!







## **Preventing Violent Extremism by Fighting Poverty, Intolerance and Inequality**

By His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos

Let me begin by thanking the organizers of this conference: the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy whose President, Ms. Amina Rasul served under my administration as Presidential Adviser on Youth Affairs and founding Chair of the National Youth Commission; Ambassador and former Foreign Affairs Secretary Delia D. Albert of ASEAN Society Philippines, (who is my adviser on foreign affairs, particularly ASEAN matters); Ambassador Ong Keng Yong of the Rajaratnam School of International Studies and former ASEAN Secretary General; and Secretary Jesus Dureza, our Peace Adviser. Sec Dureza and I have closely cooperated on many an issue during my administration. They have been unrelenting in their efforts to have me chair the Advisory Committee to organize this conference. What choices have I but to accede?

Congratulations to the cooperating organizations as well:

- International Alert
- Women and Gender Institute, Miriam College
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)-Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID)
- University of the Philippines
- Women's Alliance for Security Leadership, and,
- National Commission on Muslim Filipinos NCR Regional Office

Let me also acknowledge the partners, not only of this conference, but also of the country for a long time now, in our efforts to establish genuine and lasting peace:

- The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government Agency for International Development Cooperation (AUSAID)





- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- The Government of Switzerland
- The Government of the Netherlands
- Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID) and the Government of Spain
- The European Union
- UN Women
- and San Miguel Corporation, representing the private sector.

These countries and international agencies have always helped us in peacemaking activities in terms of providing aid and grants, expertise and support.

Finally, let me commend all of you, the participants of this international conference who flew from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Australia, the United States, Switzerland, and Mindanao – particularly the participants from Marawi - to join us today for this very important forum. To my fellow citizens from Marawi, I am with you, now and always.

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The Marawi Siege, now on its 123rd day, is a watershed moment in many ways to different people. It has caused tremendous dislocation of hundreds of thousands of lives, massive destruction of properties and led President Rodrigo Duterte to declare martial law over the entire Mindanao,

For ISIS sympathizers, it served as a clarion call, a drumbeat, if you will, to continue the march of the Islamic State in Southeast Asia. Even before the attacks in Marawi, security experts have already warned us about the advance of ISIS in our shores.

For many of us, the Marawi Siege, and the other acts of terror perpetrated by ISIS in our backyard should serve as a wake up call. We cannot allow Islamic State militants to gain a foothold in Southeast Asia. If we allow this to happen, it will not only complicate our efforts to deal with existing insurgencies and local terrorism but will also threaten our economic prosperity and our identity.





This is the time for ASEAN to demonstrate its unity amidst diversity. We need to show the world that we can defend our homeland from terrorism. Let us fight violent extremism—the ASEAN way.

In the course of its history, ASEAN has acquired significant influence in the world by consistently acting with solidarity and cohesion—which is not easy given our region's diversity and disagreements on certain issues.

What we must do now is to protect those gains from violent extremists. But how can we do this, ASEAN-style?

First, I say that we must fight terrorism by fighting poverty. Ensuring development—equitable development—among our peoples will allow us to undermine a critical element of the radicalization process of many of our people, especially the youth.

In a speech I delivered during the signing of the Final Peace Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) on September 2, 1996, I said—and this lesson still applies to our new challenges today:

Development cannot be an exclusionary process. If the nation is to progress, it must do so as a whole—and to do so as a whole, it must think and act as a whole, as Filipinos, and not just as Christians or Muslims or individuals of other backgrounds or beliefs.

We need to fight poverty and the problems of exclusion and marginalization that are pushing some of our citizens into the arms of violent extremists. As Pope Francis said: “Human rights are not only violated by terrorism, repression or assassination, but also by unfair economic structures that creates huge inequalities.”

Second, we must improve the capacity of, and increase collaboration between, our armed forces.

Many of you know that I came from a military background before assuming the presidency of the Republic of the Philippines in 1992. But I have always believed that a military solution alone cannot achieve lasting peace in our country and in our world. We need to also engage in a battle for the hearts and minds of our people.

With regard to our struggle to keep ISIS from taking root in our communities, even our military response need to be calibrated to meet the challenges of our new adversary. I doubt if counter-insurgency strategies and tactics will have the





same success. I must note, however, that the threat of violent extremism comes not just not faith-based groups but from ideology-based actors.

ASEAN countries must strengthen and retool its armed forces in order to respond effectively to terror organizations who know no sovereignty, territory and who have mastered the Internet and social media in advancing their goals.

But it is important for us to understand that a military response might result to further alienation and radicalization of our people. Let us make sure that military operations do not become recruitment slogans for extremists.

Third, any military response must be balanced with the so-called “winning-the-hearts-and-minds” approach.

Let us empower our communities so they can promote tolerance, inclusivity, equality, and peaceful resolution of conflict. In relation to this, let us empower our women, our youth and other sectors, the participation of whom can ensure the success of our efforts to prevent violent extremism.

We need education—both formal and informal—that will inculcate tolerance, rule of law, human rights, and democracy to our people. At the end of the day, our best weapons to win the “hearts and minds” of our people are their hearts and minds. A people that care for, and love their neighbors, regardless of gender, race or religion is our strongest tactic against radicalization. Our ASEAN slogan after all is “A caring and sharing ASEAN”,

Our religious leaders obviously play a critical role in this regard. For instance, I was glad when I read the statement of our ulama leaders from Mindanao, which read:

*The threat of violent extremism and terrorism is not solely the problem and responsibility of political leaders but of religious leaders as well since many terrorists misrepresent and misuse the Islamic faith to justify violence and terrorism, which tarnish the image of Islam and Muslims.*

This is a sentiment that, I am sure, many of our religious leaders in Southeast Asia share.

Fourth, it is in the “battle for the minds and hearts” that we can tap our vibrant civil society. I am glad that your conference—organized by ASEAN civil





society organizations—is focusing on the partnership between ASEAN and civil society.

There are many ways through which civil society combat violent extremism. NGOs and grassroots organizations have long been playing a crucial role in preventing and countering violent extremism by pushing for anti-poverty programs, fighting for the marginalized sectors, engaging in conflict transformation, providing a platform to raise political grievances and by facilitating interfaith, and inter-cultural dialogue. I am sure many of the programs of the organizations represented here in the conference have done a lot of good in their own communities.

Related to the fourth issue, I would like to reiterate the important role of women in countering violent extremism not only because former Senator Santanina Rasul pressured me into including this in my speech but because I personally believe that women participation is vital to our success in building a peaceful and prosperous ASEAN. On a personal note, my wife Ming and my daughters as well as my sister the late former Senator Letty Ramos Shahani have been effective in educating me on the role that women play in society—a lesson I have learned very well over decades of living in a female-dominated family.

We should heed the landmark United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security. The Security Council resolution reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.

Women and girls have been victimized by numerous terrorist attacks but they have also been at the forefront of responding—if I may say, with dignity and decency—to such evil acts. Women are often first responders in their families and communities addressing extremism. We therefore need to empower and involve women in our efforts to counter radicalization in our communities especially amidst reports that some of those who have been radicalized and have joined ISIS in Iraq and Syria are women.

Fifth, ASEAN must enhance counter terrorism programs including capacity building and information sharing among ASEAN Member States on best practices on countering radicalization and the tools of extremism like cooperation on the exchange of intelligence; enhancement of interfaith dialogue; and ensuring that perpetrators are brought to justice.





Finally, ASEAN must come up with an inclusive Regional Action Plan to counter and prevent violent extremism as member states ought to develop their National Action Plans. This is a commitment that we have made to the global community, represented by the United Nations, and – even more important – to each other in ASEAN as reflected in past ASEAN declarations. Let me note, however, that such action plans should be developed with our communities, civil society, women, youth, religious leaders, the business sector, academe - not just by government alone.

Following previous ASEAN protocols, we need to strengthen our collective capacity to prevent the commission of terrorist acts, to include early warning mechanisms; the financing of terrorist acts; movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective control of borders and issuance of identity and travel documents.

ASEAN must endeavor to meet the evolving security challenges brought about by international terrorism and globalization. Terrorists are using cyberspace and social media to their advantage. We must ensure that our agencies have the capability to respond to cyber terrorism.

Needless to say, ASEAN needs to deal with terrorism using a balanced approach: military, socio-economic, ideological, and educational policies; as well as the enactment and enforcement of counter-terrorism laws.

I am glad that our international partners are here. ASEAN needs to improve counter-terrorism co-operation among themselves and with external partners such as Australia, the US and Europe. Violent extremism knows no boundaries. So, we are in this together. An attack in Jakarta is an attack to our sensibilities. A terrorist bombing in Paris or Belgium is an attack to our decency as a civilized world.

Let me end by saying that I hope you have a very productive two-days. I hope all of you can learn from each other's experiences in preventing violent extremism. I, myself, would be very interested to read the reports of your workshops and the various national actions plans to combat extremism. Even as we engage in the battle for the hearts and minds of our people on a daily basis, in our own corner of the world, we must constantly remind ourselves that we are citizens of one world.





### **The Islamic State and Transnational Terrorism in Southeast Asia: Assessment of the Threat and Responses of Governments**

Undersecretary Catalino S. Cuy  
Department of Interior and Local Government  
Philippine Leader for the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting  
on Transnational Crime (AMMTC)

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

Before I do my presentation, allow me to show you a short video clip central for my talk this morning. We just completed the ASEAN meeting on transnational crimes, and special ministerial meeting on radicalization, and rise of violent extremism.

As we discussed the topic of addressing violent extremism, we did the whole of government approach.

Southeast Asian countries practice a moderate form of Islam which is compatible with the culture of the region. But Philippines has undergone gradual radicalization which stemmed upon the exodus of Overseas Filipino Workers, during the oil boom in the middle east. This practice is a conservative form of Islam, known as Salafism. This is an offshoot of the Sunni school.

Upon the return of overseas Filipino workers, who have converted to Salafi Islam, along with the support of the organizations in the middle east, they were gradually able to replace the moderate schools of Islam practiced by Filipino Muslims.

Given the shift of Islam in the Philippines, radicalization spread. Radicalization is viewed as the process of change involving personal and political transformations. Radicalization does not happen overnight, but catalysts might accelerate the process.

Radicalization also entails violent extremism, which aims to overthrow the current system, and replace it with a political system which practice a kind of *Shari'ah* law according to the extremists. These extremists want to establish a kind of caliphate, or a *wilaya*, in Southeast Asia, where they are free to practice their beliefs and would serve as a rallying point for foreign fighters.

As I mentioned earlier, radicalization is a gradual process. And this starts with *dawah*, or the teaching of the good news of Islam, among the extremists,





this is where they preach their extremist worldview. The second phase is *takfir*, or the excommunication and dis-association of non-believers, this includes Christians, other non-Muslims, and even Muslims considered as deviants. Such deviation causes death sentences upon takfirs.

The third phase is *hijrah*, or immigration, in the perspective of moderates, this is moving into another spiritual plane, or a higher consciousness of spirituality, but for extremists, this is the physical condition of their adherence to the Islamic state. This could describe the movement of foreign fighters from one place to another, attempting to raise the banner of an Islamic state, like in Afghanistan, and in most recent memory in Marawi. Where extremists desire their cruel interpretations of the Shari'ah law, as observed in the Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and the *Daesh* in Syria and Iraq.

The establishment of Islamic state is the ultimate goal of extremists, and they are willing to die with the promise of paradise, with 72 maidens waiting for them. In the Philippines, violent extremism stems from the conditions, and the connection of extremist groups like the Abu Sayaff Group, the MNLF, and the MILF with Al Qaeda and JI link in the past.

With the establishment of the Daesh, the Abu Sayaff Group, and the Rajah Soliman Movement, the Maute group, affiliated themselves to the Daesh.

First is the recruitment, second is the expansion and consolidation of allies, lastly, is the execution terroristic acts and criminal activities. On September 2, 2016, people were killed and dozens were wounded when an explosive device blew up in the night market in Davao city. The design of the IED match the ones produced by JI, and ASC member. After the incident, another happened in Leyte, on December 2016. In Bohol, a tiny armed group attempted to establish a base, two weeks prior to the incident in Marawi, this resulted in the death of an ASC leader and his members. These are the precursors for the Marawi incident.

Most, if not all, violent extremist groups follow the *Salafi Jihad* interpretation of Islam. Marawi city has been used as a hiding place or a safe haven for extremist groups to lie low.

A prominent *Wahabi-Salafi* scholar made declaration after declaring allegiance to ISIS, that they would establish a Wilayah in Marawi. Many infrastructures in Marawi City have trench tunnels that dates back to the Japanese era and the Martial Law, and these stretch to areas outside the city. The Maute clan have trained kids as young as 12 years old to fight in urban warfare,







which explains why they lost the fight in Butig, while sustaining the battle in Marawi.

Intelligence sources also mentioned that members of ISIS affiliated groups such as the RSG went to Cagayan de Oro to meet with Maute leaders four months ago.

Today there is a need to address incidences like Marawi and violent extremism through a whole of government approach, including the government, civil society, academia and non state actors to address the rehabilitation of Marawi.

From the DILG's perspective, the whole of government approach is implemented at the national peace and order councils. The concept of the department's response was developed considering socio-cultural-economic issues caused by crime and terrorism.

The establishment of a resilient Muslim community will be able to prove that Muslim Filipinos could truly be included in the Filipino mainstream society. Thus, to pursue this, the DILG is willing to help other government agencies, as well as other agency partners, like DepEd, TESDA, DTI, DOLE, and DND for a comprehensive program. Finally, the creation of interfaith and Muslim consultative councils in cooperation with the NCME, and the PCOO.

There will also be four pieces that the project will entail, first is the creation of an inter-agency body, next is the creation of a working group, which would operationalize the guidelines. The third phase is the passing of local government legislation or the creation of Muslim consultative councils, or interfaith councils. The fourth phase is ensuring that local government units could sustain the implementation of the said programs, and ensure the commitment of other stakeholders

In summary, the whole of government approach is applied, and this is to bring together relevant stakeholders.

In closing, I would like to underscore the importance of everyone's support and assistance, in the success of showing that each of us, as ASEAN members, have a role to play in ensuring that extremists would not be able to thrive in the Region.





## ANNEX F

### Conference Statement

#### STATEMENT OF THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE ON PEACE AND THE PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Manila, Philippines  
22-23 September 2017

**We**, the participants of the Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, held in Manila, Philippines, comprising of leaders from the government, ASEAN civil society, women, youth, business, academia, religious and political organizations;

**Realizing** the threat posed by violent extremism—exacerbated by the attempts of violent extremist groups such as ISIS to gain foothold in our communities—to our security, democracy, and prosperity;

**Understanding** the need to prevent such violent extremism—including those resulting from state actions—and defend our communities from radicalization;

**Understanding** further the role of ASEAN civil society, the imperative of collective action, and the overcoming of our differences, in order to effectively counter violent extremism;

**Reaffirming** the principles laid out in the Joint Communiqué of the 50th ASEAN Foreign Ministers meeting in Manila, Philippines last 5 August 2017 including *“our commitment to regionalism and multilateralism as important principles and frameworks of cooperation to promote regional and international peace, stability, prosperity and progress;”*

**Reaffirming** further the Joint Communiqué’s declaration of the *“importance and effectiveness of the whole-of-nation approach as opposed to a purely military option in combating the problem, including through preventive education, involvement of women and youth and civil society, promotion of peace, tolerance, respect for diversity and moderation as a counter-narrative, and more effective use and more effective measures in preventing the misuse of internet, social media and cyberspace for terrorist activities through countering terrorist messages online”;*

**Asserting** the critical role played by women, youth, religious, business, academia, politics and government in inculcating the culture of peace, tolerance, moderation, democracy, rule of law and human rights to our people as effective means of preventing radicalization;

**Recognizing** the important role played by social media and technology in the recruitment of ISIS and the radicalization of some of our people as well as in our collective efforts to defend our communities, especially the youth against radicalization;

**Reaffirming** the principles and action agenda committed to by the 10 ASEAN Member States in the Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism that was





adopted during the 11th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime last 20 September 2017;

**Recognizing** that responding to these threats require a conflict-sensitive, peace-promoting, comprehensive, sustainable, multi-level and inclusive approach;

DO HEREBY AGREE TO:

1. Strengthen multi-sectoral convergence in addressing the “drivers of conflicts” and the root causes of violent extremism—poverty, social injustice and inequities, marginalization, deprivation and alienation, especially of the women and the youth, and intolerance;
2. Increase our efforts at sharing experiences and learning from the initiatives of others by continuously improving our networking, communications and collaborations;
3. Strengthen our work towards winning the “hearts and minds” of our people by enhancing education programs designed to inculcate the values of peace, tolerance, respect, and our commitment to the rule of law, democracy, social justice, human rights and freedom;
4. Continue our work with religious leaders and scholars and other stakeholders to counter the extremists’ misappropriation of religious doctrines to preach the use of violence; strengthen our education system, in particular the Madrassah, in inculcating the right values to the youth, and, create platforms for both intercultural/intracultural and interfaith and intrafaith dialogue;
5. Empower ASEAN youth to participate in countering extremism through, among others, developing messages and counter narratives that will resonate with young people being targeted by violent extremists;
6. Engage women, who are at the forefront of effects of violent extremism, and as such cannot be ignored in any action plan to counter violent extremism;
7. Strengthen our strategies in cyberspace and social media allowing our people to build peaceful communities online, challenging messages of violence, hate and intolerance with positive messages of trust, counter narratives, and acceptance of our diversity;
8. Encourage regional and international partners to continue supporting civil society and community-based efforts towards a multi-sectoral approach to preventing violent extremism;
9. Strengthen our resolve and effort to engage and empower the youth and women as the focal and priority group of deradicalization measures of the government and civil society;
10. Use the knowledge, best practices, and lessons learned shared at the Conference to formulate and develop inputs for submission to the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) in the development of an ASEAN Plan of Action to prevent and counter the rise of violent extremism as well as that of national action plans of other ASEAN Member States.





ANNEX G  
Synthesis

*Released on October 7, 2017*

# **Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia September 22-23, 2017 PICC, Philippines**

## **A Report on the Conference Proceedings Introduction**

More than four hundred (423) civil society leaders comprising women, youth, business, politics, academia and the religious gathered in Manila, Philippines for the Conference on Peace and the Prevention of Violent Extremism in Southeast Asia, which aimed to discuss how to strengthen peace-building and prevent violent extremism.

The Marawi Siege and other terrorist attacks in Indonesia and the communities in Southeast Asia demonstrate the creeping presence of ISIS in Southeast Asia. The expansion of ISIS in the region can potentially undermine ASEAN peace, security, and prosperity and cannot be underestimated. In addition, it can complicate existing conflicts in the region. As it is, several reports suggest that ISIS is poised to exploit the humanitarian crisis in the Myanmar- Bangladesh row as the Rohingya refugees face blatant discrimination and persecution.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) pointed out in its 2016 publication, *Preventing Violent Extremism through Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance and Respect for Diversity—A Development Response to Addressing Radicalization and Violent Extremism*|| that an increase in the levels of inclusion and tolerance in communities can lead to better governance of diversity, and to societies better inoculated against violent extremism.||





Conference participants supported this view and recognized the need for a development approach to prevent violent extremism. The consensus during the two-day conference was that efforts to prevent violent extremism need to focus on addressing the drivers of conflict<sup>11</sup> and the underlying causes of extremism, namely, poverty, social injustice, marginalization and alienation. Participants believe that force alone cannot solve this problem; rather, a multi-stakeholder approach that recognizes the role of civil society, women, youth, academia, the religious, business, and government is needed in building a tolerant, peaceful and progressive ASEAN community.

In addition, participants also stressed the importance of ASEAN governments and civil society sharing and learning from the success stories from different parts of the region. Successful initiatives led by women, other civil society organizations, the academe, business, youth and the religious will allow ASEAN communities to be adequately armed to combat violent extremism.

This, in fact, was the overarching purpose of the Conference organized by the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) and ASEAN Society-Philippines (ASP) in partnership with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) and the Rajaratnam School for International Studies (RSIS); and in cooperation with International Alert, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) – Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), the Women and Gender Institute of Miriam College, the University of the Philippines, the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership, and the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos-NCR; and supported by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of the Australian Government Agency for International Development Cooperation, United Nations Development Programme, the Government of Switzerland, the Government of the Netherlands, Agencia Española de Cooperación Internacional el Desarrollo (AECID), San Miguel Corporation, the European Union Delegation to the Philippines and the UN Women: to allow ASEAN civil society leaders to meet and discuss the threat of violent extremism in society and share lessons from local programs that has achieved success in their respective communities.



Day One Synthesis



His Excellency Fidel Valdez Ramos

The keynote speaker, **former Philippine President Fidel Ramos** set the tone for the forum by emphasizing the need to counter violent extremism the ASEAN way. In particular, he recalled that as a young officer fighting the Hukbalahap President Ramon Magsaysay had said that the armed forces must “use all out force with the right hand and use all out friendship with the left hand”. In other words, a balance between the hard and soft approach was needed.

**Ms. Amina Rasul Bernardo** of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy explained that one of the goals of the conference is to find out how ASEAN can move forward to assure that what happened to communities that have been terrorized by violent extremists, does not happen to others. She further explained that the Marawi Siege is not only a Philippine crisis but a regional one. She added that ASEAN should listen and work with civil society to come up with

national and regional action plans.

**Ambassador Delia Albert** of the ASEAN Society-Philippines explained that ASEAN takes a preventive approach to violent extremism. She stressed the need to recognize the potential contributions of relevant contributors and use a more coordinated and systematic approach, under the ASEAN framework.

**Ambassador Ong Keng Yong** from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, and Secretary-General of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Opening Remarks: (Left to Right: Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, Amb. Delia Domingo-Albert, Amb. Ong Keng Yong, Sec. Jesus Dureza)

(ASEAN) from 2003 to 2007, asserted that whatever happens in our region in terms of terrorism, will affect the broader world, and vice versa. He called for the strengthening of the ASEAN community against emerging threats because any foothold of ISIS in the region would radicalize many ASEAN communities.

National Security Adviser **Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.**, for his part, explained that the Marawi Siege dragged on for four months (123 days) because of the difficult terrain but more importantly, because of the government’s insistence to protect mosques, schools, and civilians. He noted that the conflict has taken a heavy toll on humanity with 43 civilians killed by extremists, and more than 200,000 displaced by the conflict. He continued that the government hopes to end the conflict very soon, so that reconstruction



can begin and Marawi can rise from the ashes. He concluded by saying that the battle is for the hearts and minds of the people, and that the government has to promote inclusivity and unity despite diversity in Marawi, Mindanao, the Philippines, and ASEAN.

Finally, **Philippine Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Secretary Jesus G. Dureza** highlighted the fact that there were many conference participants from the conflict areas of Tawi-Tawi, Sulu, Maguindanao and Lanao. He urged participants to listen to the sharing of their experiences, and especially the people from conflict zones. He also urged conference organizers and participants to allow these experiences to inform national policy, as well as ASEAN'S plan to counter violent extremism. More importantly, Sec. Dureza urged various governments of ASEAN to address the core drivers of conflict, including social injustice, marginalization, and oppression.

### Plenary Session 1

The theme of the first plenary session was: *"The Islamic State and Transnational Terrorism in Southeast Asia: Assessment of the Threat and Responses of Governments"*

The first panellist, **Undersecretary Catalino Cuy**, the ASEAN Minister on Transnational Crime (AMTC) who is also the Acting Secretary of the Philippine Department of Interior and Local Government, discussed his department's strategy to counter violent extremism through the "whole of government approach". The approach calls for a multi-stakeholder view that includes government, civil society, academia, and non-state actors. In particular, he highlighted the role of the Department of Education and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority in providing education and livelihoods essential to preventing radicalization, especially of poor communities.

**UN Resident Coordinator to the Philippines, Mr. Ola Almgren**, referred to violent extremism as a global challenge and a "unique product of our time". He pointed out how inspiring responses from Philippine communities in the face of violent extremism and terrorism must also be captured as this was important too.

**Mr. Samuel Grunhard**, who serves as Assistant Secretary at the Attorney General's Department CVE Centre in Australia, discussed his country's efforts to counter violent extremism. He cited what he calls as the constantly shifting threat environment in the region and that the new terrorism is transnational by nature so the responses need to be transnational as well. He said that governments need to address the underlying conditions that fuel violent extremism.

**Dr. Hanny Cueva Beteta**, Regional Advisor on Governance, Peace and Security of UN Women discussed violent extremism from a gender perspective, focusing on how terrorism uses gender stereotypes in its recruitment and in spreading its message around the globe.

She noted that extremists are adept at tailoring their message for women depending on the region. She also emphasized that in the world of terrorism, women are often affected as victims, sympathizers, or, as perpetrators. As such, they cannot be ignored when crafting a plan to prevent violent extremism. She suggested that groups involved in crafting this plan need to understand how terrorists are manipulating





gender roles in their strategy, how women can be more engaged in the process, and, consequently, how to promote the empowerment of women.

**Ms. Yenny Wahid**, the Director of Wahid Institute based in **Indonesia**, presented some very interesting data and insights based on their study of violent extremism in Indonesia. She noted that the study found



Panel Speakers: (Left to Right: Mr. Ola Almgren, Ms. Yenny Wahid, Ms. Hanny Cueva Beteta, Mr. Samuel Grunhard)

out that terrorists are now receiving funding from the local areas and not just international groups. The positive finding of the study is that the majority of Indonesian Muslims reject radicalism. In her presentation, she discussed the factors that led to radicalization, namely (1) a sense of alienation and deprivation, (2) intolerance, (3) support for radical groups, (4) sermon materials containing hateful messages and encouraging violence. She characterized extremists as (a) male and young, (b) having a tendency to understand religion in a literal way, (c) having exposure to religious information with messages of suspicion and hatred, and (d) believing in the denial of rights to people they dislike.

**Dr. Rohan Gunaratna**, Head of the International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research (ICPVTR) in Singapore, argued that security experts have observed several developments that led to the rise of ISIS in Southeast Asia. One is the shift of the terror alliance from Al Qaeda/Jemaah Islamiyah to ISIS-affiliated terror networks. He noted that as many as 27 Philippine groups have pledged allegiance to ISIS. He explained that what makes ISIS effective is that their presence is not only felt in physical territory, but in the cyberspace as well. He also urged participants to focus resources and efforts to 80% prevention and 20% rehabilitation in the fields of education, religion, and culture.

## Plenary Session 2

The second plenary session focused on **Regional/Local Initiatives to the Prevention or Countering of Violent Extremism** which was chaired by **Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna**, Head of Policy Studies, and Coordinator of the National Security Studies Programme, RSIS, Singapore.

The first panellist was **Mr. Asrul Daniel Ahmed**, a Senior Consultant Analyst for the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT) based in Malaysia. He noted that while ISIS is indeed losing ground in the Middle East, it is prepared for the long haul since it views its struggle as an inter-generational conflict. He noted that ISIS was effective in using social media to push out extremist narratives. Mr. Daniel argued that one of the problems in countering ISIS messaging in social media is what he called “asymmetry of passion”. He explained that those who work towards countering violent extremists often cannot match the passion of those promoting extremism. He suggested that mobilizing the youth to harness their creativity and to come up with messages that will resonate with young people is necessary.



**Mr. Noor Huda Ismail**, who founded the Indonesia Institute for International Peace Building, discussed the use of documentary films to create meaningful conversations on countering violent extremism. He said that conversations about violent extremism and how to prevent it are needed. These stories need to be shared—in his case, through films—so that people can learn from each other. He discussed his documentary film, “Jihad Selfie”, a film intended to open a dialogue and public discourse about social media as a tool to recruit youngsters to radical groups.



Left: Dr. Aurora Javate de Dios  
Right: Mr. Noor Huda Ismail

**Dr. Aurora Javate de Dios**, who is the Expert for Women at the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children, reported on the joint initiative by the Women and Gender Institute, and the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy on empowering women towards peace-building and countering violent extremism. She stressed the importance of women’s empowerment and protecting women’s rights as important initiatives in preventing violent extremism.

**Mr. Don Pathan**, Founding Member of the Pattani Forum in Thailand, shared their experiences with conflict and extremism in southern Thailand which is 80% Muslim-Malay. He explained that the conflict is not a Buddhist vs. Muslim conflict but is a result of, first, the Thai government’s historical assimilation policies that do not

respect nor accept the political and cultural validity of the Malay-Muslim identity; and second, its heavy-handed approach in dealing with the insurgency. He argued that the Thai State must incorporate its south into its national narrative.

**Dr. Shashi Jayakumar**, Head of the Centre of Excellence for National Security, RSIS, explained Singapore’s whole-of-government approach to countering and preventing violent extremism. He identified aftercare efforts following rehabilitation of detainees as important to prevent recidivism. He concluded that Singapore is now focused on what he calls the “bounce- backability” of society when an attack does slip through. It is imperative for Singapore to come back together towards healing and the restoration of mutual trust, understanding, after an attack. He emphasized the need to counter intolerance or what he called “tolerance for intolerance.”

## Breakout Sessions Day 1

There were seven Breakout Sessions in the afternoon that sought to understand the **Mechanisms of Dissemination of Violent Extremist Ideology** from the perspectives of the different sectors: women, academia, religious, business, youth, and politics. There was also a special breakout session about the Marawi Siege.



The Women Session was led by **Ms. Alissa Wahid** and **Ms. Samira Gutoc Tomawis**. Ms. Wahid discussed the varying roles of women in jihad and how, at present, women seem to have been effectively recruited by the ISIL in Southeast Asian countries such as Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Malaysia, focusing specifically on migrant workers in these regions. They also played a large role in the dissemination of ideology through internet-based platforms. Ms. Wahid stressed the importance of knowing what appealed to women and the idea of “religious exclusivism” as a major driver for these women.

Ms. Tomawis discussed the Marawi narrative particularly the slow emergence of the militant group which gained strength gradually over a period of 6 years prior to the recent attack and the messages that the group wanted to relay to the government and to the community. Suggestions offered by Ms. Tomawis to counter violent extremism for women and the outside community included implementing the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

For the academia sector led by **Dr. Francisco Lara Jr.**, there was consensus that there is no adequate evidence to generate a shared analysis or understanding of violent extremism, and that there are numerous gaps in the academic and investigative research that needs to be filled to enable a deeper understanding of the causes and costs of violent extremism. Furthermore, the youth need more platforms to voice out their views on violent extremism.

There was also a call for a community of practice involving not just academics but practitioners as well to better understand radicalization processes. There was also a suggestion that the effectiveness and policy impact of academic research could be sharpened by using KPIs as tools of assessment.

The key speakers for the religious sector discussed the specific ways in which inter- religious harmony may be better fostered and encouraged in the Philippines.

**Archbishop Antonio Ledesma** shared the 4 key messages which were discussed in a small group discussion of religious leaders held in Rome. First, the conflict in Marawi is not a religious war, although the extremists would invoke otherwise. He also said that although religion may be a source of conflict, it may also be a vital source of peace. Second, there was a call for peace education in our communities - in schools, religious communities, as well as in the public school system and not just in religious schools. Third, there is a need for inter-faith and intra-faith dialogue. Fourth, there is a need to welcome the current efforts at writing a more inclusive history of Mindanao.

**Dr. Badlishah Sham Baharin’s** discussion was centered on building a peaceful, prosperous, safe, and better Malaysia, or “Malaysia: a nation blessed.” He discussed that one of the ways to achieve this goal is to figure out how to break the walls between races and religions so people could work together on the basis of a common humanity.

For the business sector, **Ms Pranoti Surve** recommended three teams to work together and improve security in an organization: (1) the Intelligence Team which analyses risk and works with state and non-state organizations in collecting information regarding internal and external threats; (2) the execution team which enacts internal policies such as implementing surveillance and background checks in the firm;





(3) crisis response and resilience units which looks at possible threats and scenarios in the future, and prepares the employees for such scenarios, including evacuation plans.

Both of the thought leaders, Ms. Surve and Mr. Danny Chan agreed that one should oppose the discrimination of Muslims in any firm. Anybody could become a threat. Thus, everyone should be treated and surveyed equally. Both long-serving and new employees were proposed to have background checks at least once a year.

For the youth sector, **Dr. Wendy Yee** first argued that a lot of young people are lured into violent groups because of their values and ideologies. She also identified deprivation, historical injustices, and frustration as catalysts for violent extremism.

Also, most of the leaders of violent extremist groups are often very charismatic, appealing to young people with identity issues and seeking for a sense of belonging. The government's role was now to provide re-integration, social services, institutionalization and rationalization of Arabic schools and *madrasahs*, to provide young Muslims with safe spaces. Economic opportunities should also be provided to young people from vulnerable communities, and according to them, the issue of self-determination and poverty should also be addressed. One participant also agreed opportunities need to be created for young people as partners in peace-building, as they are competent as well. Young people have a strategic role to play in PVE and CVE efforts.

The breakout group on the political sector led by Former Senator **Rodolfo G. Biazon** and OPAPP **Undersecretary Nabil Tan**, found it important to first talk about the political and historical context of the extremist groups. In the case of the Moro people, it has long been felt that their needs are not being sufficiently addressed by the government. The subsequent failure of the government to implement the agreed upon promises and agreements resulted in the emergence of extremist groups.

There was also an agreement that the military effort is a temporary solution and would not solve the problem in the long run. The government should also improve their provision of basic infrastructure and services.

Finally, the group saw the importance of addressing and healing the historical injustices felt within the community. These experiences of trauma and shame, as well as lack of development of a city or district, have led to a generation that is vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups.

#### **Special Briefing Workshop on Marawi**

Marawi City is the center of commerce, economic activities, religious and education of Maranaos. Numerous roots of violent extremism in the city were enumerated such as deprivation of basic social services, injustices, poverty, graft and corruption. However, the main causes discussed were the lack of progress in peace agreements and the role of religious fundamentalism and extremism.

For the long-term solution, the main recommendation discussed was the passing of the Bangsamoro Basic Law. Upon passing this, the government could then shift towards a federal form of government to really



put closure on the peace talks. In the end, participants agreed that solutions being recommended by people of Mindanao should be considered since they are the direct beneficiaries of the solutions.

## Day Two Synthesis

### Plenary Session 3

Government and civil society should work together. The state must adopt policies that are “bottom-up” instead of “top-down”; engaging the communities in the planning phase and making them more resilient



Left to Right: Dr. Sam Chittick, Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim, Mr. Sunai Phasuk, Mr. Lutfi Hakim, Ms. Maria Ressa, Dr. Syafiq A. Mughni, Mr. Laurence Lien and Mr. Augusto Miclat Jr.

against violent extremism. It is encouraged to involve as many organizations as they can; the schools, religious institutions, healthcare, social media, etc. Government also needs to work with journalists to gain information about the early signs of violent terrorism, and act upon it accordingly.

The speakers pointed out the importance of strengthening the family and empowering the youth. The data shows that the radicalization of the youth is correlated with the decrease of his/her family's influence. It is recommended to win the youth by appealing to their emotions rather than pure rationalization. Creating “safe spaces” such as Cerita, a story-telling platform, is advised. Lastly, the government and civil society should promote beliefs and ideas (e.g. moderate Islam) that are compatible with principles of pluralism, human rights, and democracy.

The first panellist, **Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim**, the Executive Director of The Habibie Center in Indonesia, emphasized the imperative for civil society, especially think tanks, to produce more data and research on violent extremism. For instance, she underscored the need to redefine, or at least have a consensus on, who are the people referred to as radicals. She also urged governments to know who to listen to and to avoid using violent extremism issues as a political tool. The role of government is to govern and promote the rule of law. She also urged government to work with communities in identifying and countering triggers and factors of radicalization.



She presented the initiative of The Habibie Center called CERITA—Community Empowerment in Raising Inclusivity and Trust through Technology Application— which is primarily a storytelling platform where young Indonesians can tell their stories about life, about being human, and share these stories to inspire others.

For **Dr Syafiq A. Mughni**, the problem of violent extremism is not exclusive to Islam but affects other religions as well. The danger starts when people interpret the Qur'an, and the concepts of Jihad and Shari'ah laws in an extremely literal way. These radical groups fail to interpret their religious scriptures within a historical context, which results in intolerance and then violent extremism.

He shared the work of Muhammadiyah in promoting moderate Islam in Indonesia. Instead of a literal interpretation of the Qur'an, they teach the faithful to understand it as a whole emphasizing that its teachings are compatible with the principles of pluralism, human rights, and democracy. He argued that progressive Islam must accept democracy as a system of government because it is the closest system that respects *shura* (consultation), pluralism, human rights. Islam also teaches that there should be no discrimination against other people of other religions. In order to promote these ideas, Muhammadiyah uses as platforms the schools through the Islamic curriculum (currently there are 2000+ schools); the preaching in the mosque; humanitarian actions; and inter-faith programs (e.g. cleaning together the worship places of different faiths).

**Mr. Lutfi Hakim**, Associate for Political Communications Iman Research, Malaysia, reported that based on their group's study, young people have a great sense of pessimism and disillusionment with politics but they have interest in, and are talking about, politics. Questions such as "how do you express religion?" and "how do you deal with differences?" are still considered questions of interest among the youth and if provided the space, the youth will voice out their opinions. There is a positive response as to being able to communicate with others and understand their perceptions. However, while the interest is there in communicating with others, there is very low level of cross cultural interactions and the problem lies as to how to go about in communicating and talking to other people. Because of this problem, misunderstanding and discomfort among the youth results. They also have strong opinions against the use of social media in "sensationalizing" issues but still rely on social media extensively in terms of information. He suggested the following:

1. Promote strong nation-based identity
2. Create "safe spaces" for youth discourse
3. Involve youth in nation-building

**Ms. Maria Ressa**, President and CEO of Rappler, began by reiterating the three themes resonating in the two-day conference:

1. Empower youth
2. Harness communities
3. Build communities of actions

She stressed the need for any programs designed to counter radicalization to build from the bottom up rather than top down because it makes communities more resilient. She also underscored the need to





use social media so “we can know each other.” Knowing each other increases trust which in turn better chances in challenging radicalization online. She urged people to: Get rid of the differences, find a common ground, and use technology to scale. This is crucial, she said, because there has been an exponential growth of the spread of the ideology of radicalization on social media.

She also cited the role of good governance in terms of creating opportunities— education and employment—for the youth to lessen their vulnerabilities to radicalization. Ms. Ressa then argued that as a person gets radicalized, the family influence decreases. She explained that the family and other social institutions should be able to detect the signs of radicalization by understanding the phases of radicalization, namely: (1) agitation, (2) self-identification, (3) indoctrination, and finally (4) violent extremism.

**Mr Sunai Phasuk** explained that Thailand’s problematic experience in responding to the conflict in its southern region is an important case to study in order to improve government and civil society collaboration in preventing violent extremism. He added that the meaning of “insurgency”, in the context of Thailand, has evolved from its traditional meaning of “taking up arms to fight state authorities.” Since 2004, a Muslim group called the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), or, “National Revolutionary Front” has risen in the southern part of Thailand with a goal to cleanse the area of Buddhists-Thais.

In response, an armed Buddhist extremist group was formed supported by the state to counter the BRN and their families in the form of reprisals. Mr. Sunai calls this clash between two extremist groups as a “dangerous ingredient” insofar as this would result to people being caught in between and have nowhere to go. Mr. Sunai then explained the situation has gotten worse when Thailand came under military rule because the coup had left them with no room for constructive engagement. Elections, which the southern Thais could have used as an avenue to express their grievances and concerns, were cancelled at all levels. Worse, discussion about decentralization was criminalized by the military junta. What is left on the ground is the narrative of extremism from the BRN, and increasing narrative of Buddhist-Thai extremism. Lastly, the inclusion of the state duty to preserve Buddhism in the new Constitution would lead to more ruthless attacks from the Malayo-Muslim groups.

**Mr Laurence Lien** related how his group called the Asia Philanthropy Circle tackled the issue of how to deal with the problem of violent extremism. The business sector, he explained, offered to take risk, innovate, and create models which aims to solve this problem by focusing on three things: (1) Youth leadership and empowerment, (2) Improvement of school models, and (3) Spreading the models and creating awareness to counter intolerance. The Asia Philanthropy Circle is also looking at how to positively influence the young leaders of Bangsamoro and *madrasahs*, and create model schools and institutions they can look up to. He emphasized the need to create a roadmap in order to move forward towards peace and development.

**Mr Augusto Micalat Jr** described the current issue of violent extremism as having reached some sort of crescendo due to the continuing Marawi siege and the events in Indonesia with the former affecting the possible approval of the Bangsamoro Basic Law by the Philippine Congress. In terms of what needs to be done, Mr. Micalat first emphasized that while there is a need to talk about the immediate threat to civil society, it must not be forgotten that the struggle for the self-determination of peoples must remain of paramount concern. He urged the correction of the misimpression that violent extremism is essentially Muslim terrorism because states or their agents have also inflicted violence upon communities, causing deaths and displacements, such as the bombing of Jolo and the martial law under the late President





Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, and several other examples. The speaker discussed the need to differentiate and understand conflict trends, such as the distinction between radicalization and fundamentalism, and violent extremism. *To place them all in one basket is dangerous.* To mix them together is the biggest mistake of advocates for peace.

Mr. Miclat's recommendations include: more actions on the intervention in the action pathways; campaigning for opening up spaces for participation in peace processes; the need to maintain an inclusive process in policymaking and planning with meaningful participation of women and youth; the need to sustain peace educational efforts especially among the youth; and the need to capacitate participation of the local community.

#### Plenary Session 4

**Professor Samina Yasmeen** stated the central role of narratives and counter- narratives in the discussion of violent extremism and efforts to prevent it. She asserted that the purpose of these narratives—whether good or bad—is to get people to think about a particular vision or goal, what state they want to be in. Prof. Yasmeen pointed out that women need to have a say in this narrative/counter- narrative discussion. Specifically, they should be empowered to be able to shape the counter-narrative to extremist ideology. This means that they also need to talk about an ideal state by pointing out religious, as well as other arguments. Another question to be answered is what kind of women need to be placed in this process. She pointed out that for too long, the focus was on religious women. She pointed out that a counter-narrative for women should include women from all kinds of background. Only by giving all women space in discussions can a holistic idea on what has to be done be achieved. She then emphasized that women and men need to engage in this discourse. It is especially important to allow and empower women to present their ideas to an audience where the men may have an opposing idea. Finally, she urged participants to engage other communities who have done research on similar topics of preventing conflict, including those in the Middle East as well as those in Southeast Asia.

**Hon. Angkhana Neelapaijit** highlighted the situation of ethnic minorities and women in countries involved in military conflict such as Thailand. Since women bore the brunt of the impacts of conflict, it is important that they are included in policy-making and peace-building initiatives. Exacerbating the situation in Thailand, which is currently under military rule, is the fact that ethnic minorities and women lack economic opportunities.

Empowerment for women is translated to giving them work such as:

- Women should be able to exercise more rights such as own property
- Role as human right defenders

It is also important to highlight religious tolerance, or more generally tolerance of differences. Human rights violations typically are reflections of systematic discrimination especially to indigenous people. Even though Thailand is regarded as a multicultural society, better understanding within the Thai community of the need for tolerance and understanding leaves much to be desired.





To demonstrate the importance of a partnership between government and civil society, **Ustadja Anisa Taha** discussed the vision of her organization, *Noorus Salam*, to become a national network of *Aleemat* (Muslim religious scholars) peace advocates which aim to mobilize and strengthen the unity, cooperation, and coordination among the Bangsamoro women sector; and advance the desired peace development in Muslim Mindanao.

The



Left to Right: Ms. Melinda Holmes, Hon. Angkhana Neelapaijit, Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Prof. Samina Yasmeen, Ms. Mra Sabai Nyun, Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana and Ms. Anisa Taha

organization, with the help of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy (PCID) and the Commission on Human Rights (CHR), has received training on human rights, women's rights, and child rights which they plan to integrate in educating their own communities. Some members train in good governance especially in times of election while others receive training in health and nutrition. To make their engagement in the community more sustainable, they have partnered with the local government, the CSOs, the Bangsamoro Development Agency, the Bangsamoro Leaders Management Institute, as well as other organizations such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and the Nutrition Council.

**Ms. Mra Sabai Nyun** first talked about the engagement of women, the youth, and religious leaders. According to her, women should try to enhance their role in policy making, women's rights, economy, health and education, and protection from any forms of violence including extremism. Youth groups should be engaged in community building, networking and working towards peace-building activities. Religious leaders, on the other hand, are mostly working on areas of disaster management and education. She then talked about working towards transforming attitudes, structure, relationship, and behaviors.

In talking about the structure, she mentioned four components:

- (1) social economic development,
- (2) good governance,
- (3) reform of justice, and
- (4) security institution, culture of justice, truth and conciliation.





According Ms. Nyun, the problem with government and CSO workers that are working on social economic development or in good governance, is that they have a tendency to work in a very compartmentalized manner, thereby missing the larger picture. She then stressed the importance of seeing what is under each component:

- a. Social economic development - gender equality, equitable access to natural resources, social inclusion
- b. Good governance - civil society development, media development, power sharing, participative processes
- c. Reform - Rule of law
- d. Justice - Peace education

**Ms Kamala Chandrakirana** noted that it has been 15 years since the bombing in the tourist district of Kuta on the Indonesian island of Bali. While the insights from that experience are distinct, they are deeply connected. Violent extremism cannot be dealt with in isolation and must be viewed from the whole spectrum of extremist ideology. It is important to understand the ways that it expresses itself throughout that spectrum. Violent extremism is present in everyday life. In fact, there are daily acts of aggression, most of which can be found online and comes through social media quite regularly. She explained that increased terror activities come at a particularly vulnerable moment for Indonesia as it is about to reach 20 years into its reform and the elections are also coming up in two years. The case of the imprisonment of the Governor of Jakarta for blasphemy illustrates growing polarization in Indonesia. In this case, the blasphemy law has been used to defeat a candidate and hate has been used as the most convenient tool in the struggle for power.

The speaker, echoing former President Ramos' call, also emphasized the need to "go back to basics". The women in Indonesia and the movements have not been dealing with violent extremism per se. They have created a whole infrastructure of space. These are safe creative spaces where they challenge the extremist ideology and challenge the fundamentalists. The movements invoke references not just of religion but of nation and of the constitution, which is considered as a social contract. She emphasized that pluralism is central in creating alternative narratives and that it is the responsibility of the state to protect this pluralism.

She concluded that the women's movements must be given autonomy, not just financially but also the capacity for independent analysis. This is the core for the women's movement and is essential in addressing a whole range of diverse issues. It is also important to form alliances with various movements as well as organizations. Her final point is this: if we are all committed to support women, women's autonomy must be enabled. It is important to support the urgency of exchanges across women's movements and organizations. Women are agents of change. The goal is to achieve equality in all aspects of life - between men and women, among women, and all of humanity.

**Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa** highlighted three important points of focus with respect to countering violent extremism: 1) Women as change agents, 2) Engagement of religious leaders, and 3) importance of youth participation.





For the first point, it is important to emphasize the role of women in policy making. The voices of women should be considered in drafting actions and road maps. This is because women are uniquely positioned to detect changes in society. As to the engagement of religious leaders, she stated that not everyone is open to engaging religious leaders. But it should be emphasized that their advice is needed because as messengers from the church, they can be very influential. With regard to the youth, she said that they are a very important sector to work with simply because they are the primary targets of radicalization. Focus is needed on working on ways to be more proactive in engaging the youth and preventing radicalization among them. Their reasons for getting recruited should be explored. It should be noted that the radicalized youth are not only those who are poor and uneducated.

### Plenary Session 5

The fifth plenary was a panel on Specific PVE strategies in ASEAN. It was chaired by **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong** Executive Deputy Chairman S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore with the following speakers:

**Mr. Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah Bin Sudiman** explained that in addressing issues of violent extremism, Singapore has for its basis three pillars in program and policy implementation: Vigilance, Cohesion and Resilience. Vigilance in terms of early intervention takes its form in one of the apps developed by SG Secure wherein individuals can alert the authorities as to any suspicious activity. Cohesion in terms of sticking together in times of crisis is manifested in Singapore's way of gathering Muslim teachers and preachers, ensuring that they find a balance between expertise and understanding of the context of the situation of radical ideologies in Singapore. Lastly, resilience largely involves maintaining strength and sustainability through the utilization of various platforms to keep community members informed and educated.

He also discussed the role of certain mechanisms in the effort to counter radicalization:



1. Majlis Ugama Islam Singapura (MUIS), also known as the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore, deals with anything regarding Islam in Singapore and promotes initiatives such as public engagement, publishing information such as booklets, which can be downloaded online designed as counter-narratives to violent extremism.
2. The Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) is where Islamic preachers who wish to preach, teach, must meet minimum requirements, criteria, and go through system, interviews, clock certain number of hours (30 hours of training per year) before being allowed to preach and teach Islam. This is important to strike a balance between the religious agenda and Muslims living in a secular state.
3. The Religious Rehabilitation Group is a group of Muslim clerics, counselors, volunteers to engage in counter-propaganda and engage not only local Muslim population through platforms like lectures, YouTube, apps, and fora.

**Ms. Jasmine Binti Mohamed Jawhar** urged participants to take notice of radicalization activities taking place online. Terrorists have used the internet to spread propaganda on social media. It is here where they have been successful in radicalization, recruitment, communication, even, fundraising. For instance, one way they do this is through data mining (going through comments section, profiling individuals) which they use to select potential / ideal recruits for extremist groups. Some of their strategies include:

1. First interaction is purely personal, without touching on radical ideas
2. Propaganda is distributed in private FB groups
3. Fundraising is also done through social media platforms

In countering violent extremism online, she suggested that we must make counter messages cater to local flavor, cultural and gender contexts. It is also important to have a strong visual component, the right platform, and to specify the target audience. She also discussed some of Malaysia's PVE Efforts:

1. SLAYER (Student Leaders Against Youth Extremism and Radicalisation)- both online and offline components
2. ULS (University Lecture Series)
3. Soft-Power Response to Terrorism and Extremism (Table Top Exercises to educate people on how the radicalization process takes place in real life)

In the future, she recommends that those working to prevent violent extremism should continuously experiment, explore Public-Private Partnerships, enhance capabilities and technical know-how, and ensure more involvement of women in PVE.



(Top) Left to Right: Amb. Ong Keng Yong, Mr. Romado Panjor  
(Bottom) Left to Right: Ms. Jasmine Jawhar and Ms. Aruna Gopinath



**Dr. Aruna Gopinath** stressed that it is important to continue efforts in changing the mindset not only of participants in VE but also other members in the community. It not an easy task but the attempts must not be abandoned. In this regard, Muslim teachers and preachers have been sent to Saudi Arabia, among others, to learn and gain expertise on how to propagate the true teachings of the Quran. Furthermore, individuals must be involved in this--family members and peers can influence others, especially the youth, and dissuade them from joining VE groups to counter the false but effective propaganda of the latter.

She noted that madrasas must be strong enough to propagate the true teachings of the Qur'an. Teachers must be dispersed to places where they can learn and gain expertise and encourage them to return in order to spread the true teachings of Qur'an. She added that working in, and with ASEAN, presents challenges. Consensus is not easy. But because of the emerging threats, there is a need to come up with resolutions especially on how to control land and sea borders, in terms of cross-overs. ASEAN should also pay close attention to the humanitarian crisis along the Bangladesh-Myanmar border with respect to the Rohingya problem because it may serve as a breeding ground for IS militants.

**Mr. Romadon Panjor** explained that in Thailand's context, there is no strong link with the ISIS movement but there is still a strong need to prevent violent extremism. While the language of violent extremists in Southern Thailand are unrelated to ISIS ideology/narrative, like building a caliphate, it is still critical to sustain the meaningful peace dialogue inclusively. Inter-faith dialogues and negotiations are being employed to ease the conflict in Thailand's South.

His recommendations:

1. If peace dialogue, or political process, is in place, maintain it, and bring the actors fighting each other, together to the same space. This is an opportunity to counter or prevent radical ideology.
2. Reconsider the concept of extremism because most of the time, extremism is complex and complicated.

**Mr. Ustaz Esmail Ebrahim** discussed initiatives ranging from ground base up to national legislation as well as international efforts that have been undertaken to address violent extremism. Efforts are geared towards building the capacity of Islamic teachers and preachers as a strength to engage in counter-narratives in the form of the National Ulama Conference of the Philippines, Noorus Salam, and the Madrasah as a center of community outreach wherein advocacies are put to the fore to increase awareness and understanding. Aside from channeling efforts internally in Islamic communities in the Philippines, there are likewise efforts placed in inter-faith dialogues wherein differences in religion are attempted to be understood and a common ground established between the different religions.

## Breakout Sessions Day 2

Similar to the first day, the participants broke into smaller breakout sessions after the 5th Plenary to discuss Civil Society Organizations' Potential Contributions in the PVE National Action Plan and how it affects different sectors of society.

The Women session was led by **Ms. Rafia Bhulai** from Global Center on Cooperative Security and **Atty. Ma. Cecilia Jimenez- Damary**, UN Special Rapporteur for the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons and was facilitated by **Dr. Socorro Reyes** of the Center for Legislative Development.





The Academia session was led by **Dr. Ichsan Malik** from the Samdhana Institute and **Dr. Jamhari Makruf** from Pusat Pengkajian Islam dan Masyarakat and was facilitated by **Dr. Carolyn Sobritchea** from the Commission on Higher Education.

The Religious session was led by **Rev.Fr. Joel Tabora, S.J.** of Ateneo de Davao and **Mr. Shafqat** Mehmood from PAIMAN Alumni Trust and was facilitated by Ambassador Mohammad Alami Musa from the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

The Business session was led by **Ms. Maria Aurora Geotina-Garcia** of Philippine Women's Economic Network and **Mr. John Perrine** of the Unifrutti Group Philippines. **Atty. Ceferino Benedicto Jr.** of the Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Industry facilitated the session.

The Youth session was led by **Mr. Robi Sugara** from the Muslim Crisis Centre and **Ms. Theresa Fe Oliver** from *Panaghiusa Alang Sa Kaugalingnan ug Kalingawasan* and was facilitated by **Mr. Marc Batac** from the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict.

The Political session was led by **Hon. Rodolfo Biazon, Mayor Zamzamin Ampatuan** and was facilitated by **Dr. Nathan Gilbert Quimpo** from the Generation Peace Youth Network. The Security session was led by **Dr. Jennifer Santiago Oreta, Dr. Aries A. Arugay, Dr. Mely Caballero-Anthony** and was facilitated by **Dr. Albrecht Schnabel**.

After the breakout sessions, participants re-grouped together at the plenary for the closing ceremonies. **Amb. Delia Albert, Chair of ASEAN Society- Philippines** delivered the closing remarks. The two- day conference was concluded with the presentation of the **Statement of the Participants** which was unanimously endorsed by all attendees. The document underscores the importance of multi-sectoral and inclusive approach in preventing violent extremism.

The whole event was capped with a **Closing Dinner** with a short program held at the reception hall at the Philippine International Convention Center.





## ANNEX H

### Selected PVE Documents

#### I. Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism

##### MANILA DECLARATION TO COUNTER THE RISE OF RADICALISATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM

We, the ASEAN Ministers from Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand, and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, responsible for overseeing the prevention and combating of transnational crimes in our respective states, gathered in Manila, Philippines on 20 September 2017 for the Eleventh ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Transnational Crime (hereinafter referred to as the AMMTC);

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the aims and purposes of ASEAN as stipulated in the Bangkok Declaration of 8 August 1967, the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, and the relevant provisions in the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025;

**REAFFIRMING** also our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movement of the Moderates adopted on 27 April 2015

**EMPHASIZING** our commitment to the aims and objectives of the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Combating Transnational Crime on 30 September 2015;

**NOTING** the Chairman's Statement of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 2 October 2015 and the Chairman's Statement of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism on 19 September 2017 held in Manila, Philippines and **ACKNOWLEDGING** the initiative of the Government of Malaysia and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines in convening these two important Ministerial Meetings;

**RECALLING** that the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2178 adopted on 24 September 2014;

**REAFFIRMING** our commitment to the full implementation of the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism (ACCT), the ASEAN Comprehensive Plan of Action on Counter Terrorism (ACPoA on CT) adopted by the 11<sup>th</sup> AMMTC on 20 September 2017, and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC) Work Programme to implement the ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime 2016 - 2025;

**NOTING** the East Asia Summit Statement on "*The Rise of Violence and Brutality Committed by Terrorist/Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria*" 2014, and the East Asia Summit Statement on "*Countering Violent Extremism*" 2015; and

**ACKNOWLEDGING** the role of civil society organizations, private sector and non-government organizations in collaboration with ASEAN Member States, preventing the process of radicalisation leading to violent extremism and terrorism and their





transnational nature, methods and operations.

**DO HEREBY DECLARE TO:**

1. Counter radicalisation and violent extremism, in particular those which lead to terrorism in all forms and manifestations, through means such as the prevention of radicalisation, financing, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups;
2. Place strong emphasis on the aspect of deradicalisation in rehabilitation and reintegration programs as part of comprehensive measures in countering terrorism, besides applying force or punitive measures, so as to ensure that radicalised or extremist individuals are ready to reintegrate into society as well as to prevent 'relapse' or their return to militant/terrorist activities;
3. Adopt a sustained and proactive approach through capacity building programmes, including short and long-term initiatives focused on promoting education, in particular peace education and especially to the youth in the region emphasizing and inculcating the importance on moderation, and acquiring knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values for the prevention and peaceful resolution of conflict as well as social and ethical values as part of the awareness and prevention efforts against violent extremism and radicalisation, in line with the Langkawi Declaration on the Global Movements of Moderates;
4. Continue information sharing and exchanges on best practices among ASEAN Member States on countering and preventing radicalisation and the tools of extremism;
5. Continue also to provide mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and extradition related to the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism that leads to terrorism, in conformity with the respective domestic laws of the ASEAN Member States;
6. Develop an integrated, evidence-based approach to addressing the threats of the rise of radicalisation and violent extremism by:
  - a. Promoting dialogue and conflict prevention;
  - b. Strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law;
  - c. Engaging communities;
  - d. Empowering youth;
  - e. Empowering women and promoting gender equality;
  - f. Providing education, skills development, and employment facilitation; and
  - g. Strengthening strategic communications, the internet, and social media.
7. Develop programmes to counter violent extremism that build trust and strengthen





cooperation between communities vulnerable to radicalisation and the Police that focuses on community-police relations such as through community policing and also develop more community-based approaches to countering radicalisation and violent extremism;

8. Develop and implement, together with relevant ASEAN Sectoral Bodies, a comprehensive regional communications campaign plan to counter radical narratives using all forms of information and communication technologies and to deny radicals and extremist proponents the means and opportunities to pursue extremist/violent activities and promote their extreme ideologies;
9. Strengthen the existing mechanism for addressing terrorism, radicalism and violent extremism including through the conduct of a regular regional dialogue such as through focal points of relevant law enforcement agencies to share analyses, factors, root causes, and risk assessment in order to strengthen national and regional counter terrorism efforts;
10. Pursue strong collaborations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners, related international organizations and other stakeholders through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism; and
11. Task an Ad-hoc Experts Working Group under the SOMTC to formulate and develop an ASEAN Plan of Action to Prevent and Counter the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism, and welcomes Indonesia's proposal to host the Ad-hoc Experts Working Group meeting.

**ADOPTED** in Manila, Philippines on the Twentieth Day of September in the Year Two Thousand and Seventeen.







## ANNEX H

### Selected PVE Documents

#### II. The European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy

### THE EU COUNTER-TERRORISM STRATEGY

**PREVENT**

**PROTECT**

**PURSUE**

**RESPOND**

#### STRATEGIC COMMITMENT

**To combat terrorism globally while respecting human rights, and make Europe safer, allowing its citizens to live in an area of freedom, security and justice**

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Terrorism is a threat to all States and to all peoples. It poses a serious threat to our security, to the values of our democratic societies and to the rights and freedoms of our citizens, especially through the indiscriminate targeting of innocent people. Terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable under any circumstances.
2. The European Union is an area of increasing openness, in which the internal and external aspects of security are intimately linked. It is an area of increasing interdependence, allowing for free movement of people, ideas, technology and resources. This is an environment which terrorists abuse to pursue their objectives. In this context concerted and collective European action, in the spirit of solidarity, is indispensable to combat terrorism.
3. The four pillars of the EU's Counter-Terrorism Strategy - prevent, protect, pursue, and respond - constitute a comprehensive and proportionate response to the international terrorist threat. The Strategy requires work at national, European and international levels to reduce the threat from terrorism and our vulnerability to attack. The Strategy sets out our objectives to prevent new recruits to terrorism; better protect potential targets; pursue and investigate members of existing networks and improve our capability to respond to and manage the consequences of terrorist attacks. This Strategy takes into the next phase the agenda of work set out at the March 2004 European Council in the wake of the Madrid bombings.





4. Across the four pillars of the Union's Strategy a horizontal feature is the Union's role in the world. As set out in the European Security Strategy, through its external action the European Union takes on a responsibility for contributing to global security and building a safer world. Acting through and in conjunction with the United Nations and other international or regional organisations, the EU will work to build the international consensus and promote international standards for countering terrorism. The EU will promote efforts in the UN to develop a global strategy for combating terrorism. Continuing to make counter-terrorism a high priority in dialogue with key partner countries, including the USA, will also be a core part of the European approach.
5. Given that the current international terrorist threat affects and has roots in many parts of the world beyond the EU, co-operation with and the provision of assistance to priority third countries - including in North Africa, the Middle East and South East Asia - will be vital. Finally, working to resolve conflicts and promote good governance and democracy will be essential elements of the Strategy, as part of the dialogue and alliance between cultures, faiths and civilisations, in order to address the motivational and structural factors underpinning radicalisation.

## PREVENT

6. In order to prevent people from turning to terrorism and to stop the next generation of terrorists from emerging, the EU has agreed a comprehensive strategy and action plan for combating radicalisation and recruitment into terrorism. This strategy focuses on countering radicalisation and recruitment to terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda and the groups it inspires, given that this type of terrorism currently represents the main threat to the Union as a whole.
7. Terrorism can never be justified. There can be no excuse or impunity for terrorist acts. The vast majority of Europeans, irrespective of belief, do not accept extremist ideologies. Even amongst the small number that do, only a few turn to terrorism. The decision to become involved in terrorism varies from one individual to another, even though the motives behind such a decision are often similar. We must identify and counter the methods, propaganda and conditions through which people are drawn into terrorism.





8. The challenge of combating radicalisation and terrorist recruitment lies primarily with the Member States, at a national, regional and local level. However, EU work in this field, including the contribution of the European Commission, can provide an important framework to help co-ordinate national policies; share information and determine good practice. But addressing this challenge is beyond the power of governments alone and will require the full engagement of all populations in Europe and beyond.
9. There are practical steps an individual must take to become involved in terrorism. The ability to put ideas into action has been greatly enhanced by globalisation: ease of travel, transfer of money and communication - including through the internet - mean easier access to radical ideas and training. We need to spot such behaviour for example through community policing and monitoring travel to conflict zones. We also need to disrupt such behaviour by: limiting the activities of those playing a role in radicalisation; preventing access to terrorist training; establishing a strong legal framework to prevent incitement and recruitment; and examining ways to impede terrorist recruitment through the internet.
10. The propagation of a particular extremist worldview brings individuals to consider and justify violence. In the context of the most recent wave of terrorism, for example, the core of the issue is propaganda which distorts conflicts around the world as a supposed proof of a clash between the West and Islam. To address these issues, we need to ensure that voices of mainstream opinion prevail over those of extremism by engaging with civil society and faith groups that reject the ideas put forward by terrorists and extremists that incite violence. And we need to get our own message across more effectively, to change the perception of national and European policies. We must also ensure that our own policies do not exacerbate division. Developing a non-emotive lexicon for discussing the issues will support this.





11. There is a range of conditions in society which may create an environment in which individuals can become more easily radicalised. These conditions include poor or autocratic governance; rapid but unmanaged modernisation; lack of political or economic prospects and of educational opportunities. Within the Union these factors are not generally present but in individual segments of the population they may be. To counter this, outside the Union we must promote even more vigorously good governance, human rights, democracy as well as education and economic prosperity, and engage in conflict resolution. We must also target inequalities and discrimination where they exist and promote inter-cultural dialogue and long-term integration where appropriate.
12. Radicalisation and recruitment is an international phenomenon. There is much we can do with our partners overseas to assist them in combating radicalisation, including through co-operation and assistance programmes with third countries and work through international organisations.
13. Key priorities for 'Prevent' are to:
  - Develop common approaches to spot and tackle problem behaviour, in particular the misuse of the internet;
  - Address incitement and recruitment in particular in key environments, for example prisons, places of religious training or worship, notably by implementing legislation making these behaviours offences;
  - Develop a media and communication strategy to explain better EU policies;
  - Promote good governance, democracy, education and economic prosperity through Community and Member State assistance programmes;
  - Develop inter-cultural dialogue within and outside the Union;
  - Develop a non-emotive lexicon for discussing the issues;
  - Continue research, share analysis and experiences in order to further our understanding of the issues and develop policy responses.





## PROTECT

14. Protection is a key part of our Counter Terrorism Strategy. We must strengthen the defences of key targets, by reducing their vulnerability to attack, and also by reducing the resulting impact of an attack.
15. While Member States have the primary responsibility for improving the protection of key targets, the interdependency of border security, transport and other cross-border infrastructures require effective EU collective action. In areas where EU-level security regimes exist, such as border and transport security, the EU and European Commission in particular have played an important role in raising standards. Further work between Member States, with the support of the European institutions, will provide an important framework in which Member States are able to co-ordinate their policies, share information about responses developed at national level, determine good practice, and work together to develop new ideas.
16. We need to enhance protection of our external borders to make it harder for known or suspected terrorists to enter or operate within the EU. Improvements in technology for both the capture and exchange of passenger data, and the inclusion of biometric information in identity and travel documents, will increase the effectiveness of our border controls and provide greater assurance to our citizens. The European Borders Agency (Frontex) will have a role in providing risk assessment as part of the effort to strengthen controls and surveillance at the EU's external border. The establishment of the Visa Information System and second generation Schengen Information System will ensure that our authorities can share and access information and if necessary deny access to the Schengen area.
17. We also must work collectively to raise standards in transport security. We must enhance the protection of airports, seaports, and aircraft security arrangements in order to deter terrorist attacks and address the vulnerabilities in domestic and overseas transport operations. These measures will be developed by a combination of specific assessments of threat and





vulnerability, the implementation of agreed EU legislation on aviation and maritime security, and the agreement of revised EU legislation on aviation security. There is also scope for working together to increase road and rail security. To support work in all of these fields, EU research and development policy including the European Commission's R&D programmes should continue to include security related research in the context of terrorism.

18. Reducing the vulnerability across Europe of critical infrastructure to physical and electronic attack is essential. To further enhance our protection, we agreed to establish a Programme of work aimed at improving the protection of critical infrastructure across Europe. We will continue work to this end, developing an all hazard approach which recognises the threat from terrorism as a priority.
19. We must also ensure that our collective work, and particularly EU research efforts, contribute to developing methodologies for protecting crowded places and other soft targets from attacks.
20. Internationally, we must work with partners and international organisations on transport security, and non-proliferation of CBRN materials and small arms/light weapons, as well as provide technical assistance on protective security to priority third countries as a component of our wider technical assistance programmes.
21. Key priorities for 'Protect' are to:
  - Deliver improvements to the security of EU passports through the introduction of biometrics;
  - Establish the Visa Information System (VIS) and the second generation Schengen Information System (SISII);
  - Develop through Frontex effective risk analysis of the EU's external border;
  - Implement agreed common standards on civil aviation, port and maritime security;
  - Agree a European programme for critical infrastructure protection;
  - Make best use of EU and Community level research activity.





## PURSUE

22. We will further strengthen and implement our commitments to disrupt terrorist activity and pursue terrorists across borders. Our objectives are to impede terrorists' planning, disrupt their networks and the activities of recruiters to terrorism, cut off terrorists' funding and access to attack materials, and bring them to justice, while continuing to respect human rights and international law.
23. As agreed in the Hague Programme, when preserving national security, Member States will also focus on the security of the Union as a whole. The Union will support the efforts of Member States to disrupt terrorists by encouraging the exchange of information and intelligence between them, providing common analyses of the threat, and strengthening operational co-operation in law enforcement.
24. At national level the competent authorities need to have the necessary tools to collect and analyse intelligence and to pursue and investigate terrorists, requiring Member States to update their policy response and legislative provisions where necessary. In this respect our common aim is to follow up and take full account of the recommendations identified during the EU's peer evaluation process. Member States will report back on how they have improved their national capabilities and machinery in light of these recommendations.
25. Developing a common understanding of the threat is fundamental to developing common policies to respond to it. The Joint Situation Centre's assessments, based on the contributions of national security and intelligence agencies and Europol, should continue to inform decisions across the range of the EU's policies.





26. Instruments such as the European Arrest Warrant are proving to be important tools in pursuing and investigating terrorists across borders. Priority should now be given to other practical measures in order to put into practice the principle of mutual recognition of judicial decisions. A key measure is the European Evidence Warrant, which will enable Member States to obtain evidence from elsewhere in the EU to help convict terrorists. Member States should also improve further the practical co-operation and information exchange between police and judicial authorities, in particular through Europol and Eurojust. In addition, Joint Investigation Teams should be established where necessary for cross-border investigations. Evaluation of the implementation of legislative measures will be important and will inform further work, and Member States should ensure that they implement agreed European measures as well as ratify relevant international Treaties and Conventions, to ensure an appropriate legislative response to the threat.
27. To move from ad hoc to systematic police co-operation, one important step will be developing and putting into practice the principle of availability of law enforcement information. In addition, the development of new IT systems such as the Visa Information System and the next generation Schengen Information System, while safeguarding data protection, should provide improved access to those authorities responsible for internal security thereby widening the base of information at their disposal. Consideration should also be given to developing common approaches to the sharing of information on potential terrorists and on individuals deported for terrorism-related offences.
28. Terrorists must also be deprived of the means by which they mount attacks - whether directly (eg weapons and explosives) or indirectly (eg false documentation to enable undetected travel and residence). Their ability to communicate and plan undetected should be impeded by measures such as the retention of telecommunications data. They must also be deprived as far as possible of the opportunities offered by the Internet to communicate and spread technical expertise related to terrorism.







29. Creating a hostile operating environment for terrorists also means tackling terrorist financing.

The EU has already put in place provisions for freezing terrorist assets. The next stage is to implement the EU-wide legislation concerning money laundering and cash transfers, and to agree steps to impede money (wire) transfers by terrorists. In addition, tackling the misuse of the non-profit sector remains a priority. We must also ensure that financial investigation is an integral part of all terrorism investigations. These measures and others which build on the Financial Action Task Force's recommendations, form part of the EU's comprehensive strategy for combating terrorist financing. A review of the EU's performance against terrorist financing is currently being conducted to ensure our approach is kept up to date.

30. Much of the terrorist threat to Europe originates outside the EU. 'Pursue' must therefore also have a global dimension. The EU will work to reinforce the international consensus through the United Nations and other international bodies and through dialogue and agreements (which include counter-terrorism clauses) with key partners, and will work for agreement of a UN Comprehensive Convention against Terrorism. Assistance will be provided to priority countries to help them introduce and implement the necessary mechanisms to disrupt terrorism, in co-ordination with the work of other donors.

31. Key priorities on 'Pursue' are to:

- Strengthen national capabilities to combat terrorism, in light of the recommendations of the peer evaluation of national anti-terrorism arrangements;
- Make full use of Europol and Eurojust to facilitate police and judicial cooperation, and continue to integrate the Joint Situation Centre's threat assessments into CT policy making;
- Further develop mutual recognition of judicial decisions, including by adopting the European Evidence Warrant;
- Ensure full implementation and evaluation of existing legislation as well as the ratification of relevant international Treaties and Conventions;
- Develop the principle of availability of law enforcement information;
- Tackle terrorist access to weapons and explosives, ranging from components for home-made explosive to CBRN material;





- Tackle terrorist financing, including by implementing agreed legislation, working to prevent the abuse of the non-profit sector, and reviewing the EUs overall performance in this area;
- Deliver technical assistance to enhance the capability of priority third countries.

## RESPOND

32. We cannot reduce the risk of terrorist attacks to zero. We have to be able to deal with attacks when they occur, recognising that attacks can have effects across EU borders. The response to an incident will often be similar whether that event is natural, technological or man-made, hence the response systems in place to manage the consequences of natural disasters may also be used to alleviate the effects on citizens in the aftermath of a terrorist attack. Our response to any such events should make full use of the existing structures, including the Civil Protection Mechanism, which the EU has developed to respond to other major European and international crises, and be co-ordinated with the action of other international organisations involved.

33. In the event of an incident with cross border effects there will be a need for rapid sharing of operational and policy information, media co-ordination and mutual operational support, drawing on all available means, including military resources. The ability of the EU to take consistent or collective action will also be essential to an effective and efficient response. The development of EU crisis co-ordination arrangements, supported by the necessary operational procedures, will help ensure the coherence of the EU response to terrorist attacks.

34. Member States have the lead role in providing the emergency response to a terrorist incident on their territory. Nevertheless, there remains a need to ensure that the EU collectively, supported by the European Institutions including the Commission, has the capability to respond in solidarity to an extreme emergency which might overwhelm the resources of a single Member State, and could constitute a serious risk to the Union as a whole. Reviewing and revising the current framework for mutual support – the Community Mechanism for civil protection – is important in ensuring this safeguard.





35. Developing a risk based approach to capability assessment – focusing on preparing for those events which are judged most likely to occur, and which would have the greatest impact – will enable Member States to develop their capabilities to respond in the event of an emergency. The shared EU database listing the resources and assets which Member States might be able to contribute to dealing with such events in other Member States or overseas complements this work.
36. The solidarity, assistance and compensation of the victims of terrorism and their families constitutes an integral part of the response to terrorism at national and European level. Member States should ensure that appropriate compensation is available to victims. Through sharing of best practice on national arrangements, and the development of contact between national victims' associations, the European Commission will enable the EU to take steps to enhance the support offered to those who most suffer from terrorist attacks.
37. Internationally, there is a need to provide assistance to EU citizens in third countries and to protect and assist our military and civilian assets on EU crisis management operations. We should also ensure that our work on disaster response is closely co-ordinated with related work in international organisations and in particular the United Nations. Finally, the technical assistance provided by the EU to priority third countries will need to factor in assistance on managing the consequences of terrorist attacks.
38. Key priorities on 'Respond' are to:
- Agree EU Crisis Co-ordination Arrangements and the supporting operational procedures for them;
  - Revise the legislation on the Community Mechanism for civil protection;
  - Develop risk assessment as a tool to inform the building of capabilities to respond to an attack;
  - Improve co-ordination with international organisations on managing the response to terrorist attacks and other disasters;
  - Share best practice and develop approaches for the provision of assistance to victims of terrorism and their families.





## DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

39. The European Council will review progress on the Strategy once every six months.
40. Once per Presidency, and ahead of the European Council's review of progress, a High Level Political Dialogue on Counter-Terrorism, bringing together the Council, European Commission, and European Parliament, will meet to allow the three Institutions to consider progress together and promote transparency and balance in the EU's approach.
41. This Strategy will be complemented by a detailed Action Plan listing all the relevant measures under the four strands of this strategy. This will allow for detailed progress to be monitored on a regular basis by the Committee of Permanent Representatives, with regular follow-up and updates from the Counter-Terrorism Co-ordinator and the European Commission.
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## ANNEX H Selected PVE Documents

### III. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014)

United Nations

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**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
24 September 2014

#### **Resolution 2178 (2014)**

**Adopted by the Security Council at its 7272nd meeting, on  
24 September 2014**

*The Security Council,*

*Reaffirming* that terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed, and *remaining* determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level,

*Noting with concern* that the terrorism threat has become more diffuse, with an increase, in various regions of the world, of terrorist acts including those motivated by intolerance or extremism, and *expressing* its determination to combat this threat,

*Bearing* in mind the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, and *affirming* Member States' determination to continue to do all they can to resolve conflict and to deny terrorist groups the ability to put down roots and establish safe havens to address better the growing threat posed by terrorism,

*Emphasizing* that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality or civilization,

*Recognizing* that international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must comply fully with the Charter of the United Nations,

*Reaffirming* its respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all States in accordance with the Charter,

*Reaffirming* that Member States must ensure that any measures taken to counter terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, *underscoring* that respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are complementary and mutually reinforcing with effective counter-terrorism measures, and are an essential part of a successful counter-terrorism effort and notes the importance of respect for the rule of law so as to effectively prevent and combat terrorism, and *noting* that failure to comply with these and other international obligations, including under the Charter



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of the United Nations, is one of the factors contributing to increased radicalization and fosters a sense of impunity,

*Expressing grave concern* over the acute and growing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, namely individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict, and *resolving* to address this threat,

*Expressing grave concern* about those who attempt to travel to become foreign terrorist fighters,

*Concerned* that foreign terrorist fighters increase the intensity, duration and intractability of conflicts, and also may pose a serious threat to their States of origin, the States they transit and the States to which they travel, as well as States neighbouring zones of armed conflict in which foreign terrorist fighters are active and that are affected by serious security burdens, and *noting* that the threat of foreign terrorist fighters may affect all regions and Member States, even those far from conflict zones, and *expressing grave concern* that foreign terrorist fighters are using their extremist ideology to promote terrorism,

*Expressing concern* that international networks have been established by terrorists and terrorist entities among States of origin, transit and destination through which foreign terrorist fighters and the resources to support them have been channelled back and forth,

*Expressing particular concern* that foreign terrorist fighters are being recruited by and are joining entities such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), the Al-Nusrah Front (ANF) and other cells, affiliates, splinter groups or derivatives of Al-Qaida, as designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011), *recognizing* that the foreign terrorist fighter threat includes, among others, individuals supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida and its cells, affiliates, splinter groups, and derivative entities, including by recruiting for or otherwise supporting acts or activities of such entities, and *stressing* the urgent need to address this particular threat,

*Recognizing* that addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters requires comprehensively addressing underlying factors, including by preventing radicalization to terrorism, stemming recruitment, inhibiting foreign terrorist fighter travel, disrupting financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, countering incitement to terrorist acts motivated by extremism or intolerance, promoting political and religious tolerance, economic development and social cohesion and inclusiveness, ending and resolving armed conflicts, and facilitating reintegration and rehabilitation,

*Recognizing also* that terrorism will not be defeated by military force, law enforcement measures, and intelligence operations alone, and *underlining* the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as outlined in Pillar I of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288),

*Expressing concern* over the increased use by terrorists and their supporters of communications technology for the purpose of radicalizing to terrorism, recruiting and inciting others to commit terrorist acts, including through the internet, and

financing and facilitating the travel and subsequent activities of foreign terrorist fighters, and *underlining* the need for Member States to act cooperatively to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law,

*Noting* with appreciation the activities undertaken in the area of capacity building by United Nations entities, in particular entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), including the United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Centre for Counter-Terrorism (UNCCT), and also the efforts of the Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to facilitate technical assistance, specifically by promoting engagement between providers of capacity-building assistance and recipients, in coordination with other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, to assist Member States, upon their request, in implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,

*Noting* recent developments and initiatives at the international, regional and subregional levels to prevent and suppress international terrorism, and *noting* the work of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), in particular its recent adoption of a comprehensive set of good practices to address the foreign terrorist fighter phenomenon, and its publication of several other framework documents and good practices, including in the areas of countering violent extremism, criminal justice, prisons, kidnapping for ransom, providing support to victims of terrorism, and community-oriented policing, to assist interested States with the practical implementation of the United Nations counter-terrorism legal and policy framework and to complement the work of the relevant United Nations counter-terrorism entities in these areas,

*Noting* with appreciation the efforts of INTERPOL to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including through global law enforcement information sharing enabled by the use of its secure communications network, databases, and system of advisory notices, procedures to track stolen, forged identity papers and travel documents, and INTERPOL's counter-terrorism fora and foreign terrorist fighter programme,

*Having regard to and highlighting* the situation of individuals of more than one nationality who travel to their states of nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and *urging* States to take action, as appropriate, in compliance with their obligations under their domestic law and international law, including international human rights law,

*Calling* upon States to ensure, in conformity with international law, in particular international human rights law and international refugee law, that refugee status is not abused by the perpetrators, organizers or facilitators of terrorist acts, including by foreign terrorist fighters,

*Reaffirming* its call upon all States to become party to the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols as soon as possible, whether or not they are a party to regional conventions on the matter, and to fully implement their obligations under those to which they are a party,

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*Noting* the continued threat to international peace and security posed by terrorism, and *affirming* the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, including those perpetrated by foreign terrorist fighters,

*Acting* under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Condemns* the violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, sectarian violence, and the commission of terrorist acts by foreign terrorist fighters, and *demands* that all foreign terrorist fighters disarm and cease all terrorist acts and participation in armed conflict;

2. *Reaffirms* that all States shall prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective border controls and controls on issuance of identity papers and travel documents, and through measures for preventing counterfeiting, forgery or fraudulent use of identity papers and travel documents, *underscores*, in this regard, the importance of addressing, in accordance with their relevant international obligations, the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and *encourages* Member States to employ evidence-based traveller risk assessment and screening procedures including collection and analysis of travel data, without resorting to profiling based on stereotypes founded on grounds of discrimination prohibited by international law;

3. *Urges* Member States, in accordance with domestic and international law, to intensify and accelerate the exchange of operational information regarding actions or movements of terrorists or terrorist networks, including foreign terrorist fighters, especially with their States of residence or nationality, through bilateral or multilateral mechanisms, in particular the United Nations;

4. *Calls upon* all Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law, to cooperate in efforts to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including by preventing the radicalization to terrorism and recruitment of foreign terrorist fighters, including children, preventing foreign terrorist fighters from crossing their borders, disrupting and preventing financial support to foreign terrorist fighters, and developing and implementing prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration strategies for returning foreign terrorist fighters;

5. *Decides* that Member States shall, consistent with international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law, prevent and suppress the recruiting, organizing, transporting or equipping of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, and the financing of their travel and of their activities;

6. *Recalls* its decision, in resolution 1373 (2001), that all Member States shall ensure that any person who participates in the financing, planning, preparation or perpetration of terrorist acts or in supporting terrorist acts is brought to justice, and *decides* that all States shall ensure that their domestic laws and regulations establish serious criminal offenses sufficient to provide the ability to prosecute and to penalize in a manner duly reflecting the seriousness of the offense:

(a) their nationals who travel or attempt to travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality, and other individuals who travel or attempt to



travel from their territories to a State other than their States of residence or nationality, for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts, or the providing or receiving of terrorist training;

(b) the wilful provision or collection, by any means, directly or indirectly, of funds by their nationals or in their territories with the intention that the funds should be used, or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in order to finance the travel of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training; and,

(c) the wilful organization, or other facilitation, including acts of recruitment, by their nationals or in their territories, of the travel of individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training;

7. *Expresses* its strong determination to consider listing pursuant to resolution 2161 (2014) individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida who are financing, arming, planning, or recruiting for them, or otherwise supporting their acts or activities, including through information and communications technologies, such as the internet, social media, or any other means;

8. *Decides* that, without prejudice to entry or transit necessary in the furtherance of a judicial process, including in furtherance of such a process related to arrest or detention of a foreign terrorist fighter, Member States shall prevent the entry into or transit through their territories of any individual about whom that State has credible information that provides reasonable grounds to believe that he or she is seeking entry into or transit through their territory for the purpose of participating in the acts described in paragraph 6, including any acts or activities indicating that an individual, group, undertaking or entity is associated with Al-Qaida, as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 2161 (2014), provided that nothing in this paragraph shall oblige any State to deny entry or require the departure from its territories of its own nationals or permanent residents;

9. *Calls upon* Member States to require that airlines operating in their territories provide advance passenger information to the appropriate national authorities in order to detect the departure from their territories, or attempted entry into or transit through their territories, by means of civil aircraft, of individuals designated by the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) ("the Committee"), and further *calls upon* Member States to report any such departure from their territories, or such attempted entry into or transit through their territories, of such individuals to the Committee, as well as sharing this information with the State of residence or nationality, as appropriate and in accordance with domestic law and international obligations;

10. *Stresses* the urgent need to implement fully and immediately this resolution with respect to foreign terrorist fighters, *underscores* the particular and urgent need to implement this resolution with respect to those foreign terrorist fighters who are associated with ISIL, ANF and other cells, affiliates, splinter groups or derivatives of Al-Qaida, as designated by the Committee, and *expresses* its

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readiness to consider designating, under resolution 2161 (2014), individuals associated with Al-Qaida who commit the acts specified in paragraph 6 above;

#### *International Cooperation*

11. *Calls upon* Member States to improve international, regional, and subregional cooperation, if appropriate through bilateral agreements, to prevent the travel of foreign terrorist fighters from or through their territories, including through increased sharing of information for the purpose of identifying foreign terrorist fighters, the sharing and adoption of best practices, and improved understanding of the patterns of travel by foreign terrorist fighters, and for Member States to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law;

12. *Recalls* its decision in resolution 1373 (2001) that Member States shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or proceedings relating to the financing or support of terrorist acts, including assistance in obtaining evidence in their possession necessary for the proceedings, and *underlines* the importance of fulfilling this obligation with respect to such investigations or proceedings involving foreign terrorist fighters;

13. *Encourages* Interpol to intensify its efforts with respect to the foreign terrorist fighter threat and to recommend or put in place additional resources to support and encourage national, regional and international measures to monitor and prevent the transit of foreign terrorist fighters, such as expanding the use of INTERPOL Special Notices to include foreign terrorist fighters;

14. *Calls upon* States to help build the capacity of States to address the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters, including to prevent and interdict foreign terrorist fighter travel across land and maritime borders, in particular the States neighbouring zones of armed conflict where there are foreign terrorist fighters, and *welcomes* and *encourages* bilateral assistance by Member States to help build such national capacity;

#### *Countering Violent Extremism in Order to Prevent Terrorism*

15. *Underscores* that countering violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including preventing radicalization, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups and becoming foreign terrorist fighters is an essential element of addressing the threat to international peace and security posed by foreign terrorist fighters, and *calls upon* Member States to enhance efforts to counter this kind of violent extremism;

16. *Encourages* Member States to engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite terrorist acts, address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including by empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other concerned groups of civil society and adopt tailored approaches to countering recruitment to this kind of violent extremism and promoting social inclusion and cohesion;

17. *Recalls* its decision in paragraph 14 of resolution 2161 (2014) with respect to improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and individuals, groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, and *urges* Member States, in this context, to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources, including audio and video, to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law;

18. *Calls upon* Member States to cooperate and consistently support each other's efforts to counter violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism, including through capacity building, coordination of plans and efforts, and sharing lessons learned;

19. *Emphasizes* in this regard the importance of Member States' efforts to develop non-violent alternative avenues for conflict prevention and resolution by affected individuals and local communities to decrease the risk of radicalization to terrorism, and of efforts to promote peaceful alternatives to violent narratives espoused by foreign terrorist fighters, and *underscores* the role education can play in countering terrorist narratives;

*United Nations Engagement on the Foreign Terrorist Fighter Threat*

20. *Notes* that foreign terrorist fighters and those who finance or otherwise facilitate their travel and subsequent activities may be eligible for inclusion on the Al-Qaida Sanctions List maintained by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) where they participate in the financing, planning, facilitating, preparing, or perpetrating of acts or activities by, in conjunction with, under the name of, on behalf of, or in support of, Al-Qaida, supplying, selling or transferring arms and related materiel to, or recruiting for, or otherwise supporting acts or activities of Al-Qaida or any cell, affiliate, splinter group or derivative thereof, and *calls upon* States to propose such foreign terrorist fighters and those who facilitate or finance their travel and subsequent activities for possible designation;

21. *Directs* the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in close cooperation with all relevant United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, in particular CTED, to devote special focus to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining ISIL, ANF and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida;

22. *Encourages* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to coordinate its efforts to monitor and respond to the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters with other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, in particular the CTITF;

23. *Requests* the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team, in close cooperation with other United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, to report to the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) within 180 days, and provide a preliminary oral update to the Committee within 60 days, on the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters recruited by or joining ISIL, ANF and all groups, undertakings and entities associated with Al-Qaida, including:



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(a) a comprehensive assessment of the threat posed by these foreign terrorist fighters, including their facilitators, the most affected regions and trends in radicalization to terrorism, facilitation, recruitment, demographics, and financing; and

(b) recommendations for actions that can be taken to enhance the response to the threat posed by these foreign terrorist fighters;

24. *Requests* the Counter-Terrorism Committee, within its existing mandate and with the support of CTED, to identify principal gaps in Member States' capacities to implement Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005) that may hinder States' abilities to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, as well as to identify good practices to stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in the implementation of resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), and to facilitate technical assistance, specifically by promoting engagement between providers of capacity-building assistance and recipients, especially those in the most affected regions, including through the development, upon their request, of comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies that encompass countering violent radicalization and the flow of foreign terrorist fighters, recalling the roles of other relevant actors, for example the Global Counterterrorism Forum;

25. *Underlines* that the increasing threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters is part of the emerging issues, trends and developments related to resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), that, in paragraph 5 of resolution 2129 (2013), the Security Council directed CTED to identify, and therefore merits close attention by the Counter-Terrorism Committee, consistent with its mandate;

26. *Requests* the Committee established pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1989 (2011) and the Counter-Terrorism Committee to update the Security Council on their respective efforts pursuant to this resolution;

27. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.





## ANNEX H

### Selected PVE Documents

#### IV. The United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General

United Nations

A/70/674



## General Assembly

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24 December 2015

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**Seventieth session**  
Agenda items 16 and 117

**Culture of peace**

**The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**

### Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism

#### Report of the Secretary-General

#### I. Introduction

1. Violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It undermines peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. No country or region is immune from its impacts.

2. The present Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism considers and addresses violent extremism as, and when, conducive to terrorism. Violent extremism is a diverse phenomenon, without clear definition. It is neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief. Nevertheless, in recent years, terrorist groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have shaped our image of violent extremism and the debate on how to address this threat. These groups' message of intolerance — religious, cultural, social — has had drastic consequences for many regions of the world. Holding territory and using social media for the global and real-time communication of their ideas and exploits, they seek to challenge our shared values of peace, justice and human dignity. The spread of violent extremism has further aggravated an already unprecedented humanitarian crisis which surpasses the boundaries of any one region. Millions of people have fled the territory controlled by terrorist and violent extremist groups. Migratory flows have increased both away from and towards the conflict zones, involving those seeking safety and those lured into the conflict as foreign terrorist fighters, further destabilizing the regions concerned. While the Plan of Action has been developed within this context, it is intended to address violent extremism in all its forms and wherever it occurs.

3. Nothing can justify violent extremism but we must also acknowledge that it does not arise in a vacuum. Narratives of grievance, actual or perceived injustice, promised empowerment and sweeping change become attractive where human rights are being violated, good governance is being ignored and aspirations are





being crushed. Violent extremists have been able to recruit over 30,000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 100 Member States to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, as well as to Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen. Some of them will no doubt be horrified by what they see and anxious to put the experience behind them, but others have already returned to their home countries — and more will undoubtedly follow — to spread hatred, intolerance and violence in their own communities.

4. Over the past two decades, the international community has sought to address violent extremism primarily within the context of security-based counter-terrorism measures adopted in response to the threat posed by Al-Qaida and its affiliated groups. However, with the emergence of a new generation of groups, there is a growing international consensus that such counter-terrorism measures have not been sufficient to prevent the spread of violent extremism. Violent extremism encompasses a wider category of manifestations and there is a risk that a conflation of the two terms may lead to the justification of an overly broad application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that should not qualify as terrorist acts.

5. In its resolution 2178 (2014), the Security Council makes explicit the link between violent extremism and terrorism, underscores the importance of measures being in line with international norms and recognizes the need for prevention: “violent extremism, which can be conducive to terrorism”, requires collective efforts, “including preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization of individuals into terrorist groups and becoming foreign terrorist fighters”. In that resolution, the Council “calls upon Member States to enhance efforts to counter this kind of violent extremism”, recognizing that “international cooperation and any measures taken by Member States to prevent and combat terrorism must comply fully with the Charter of the United Nations”. Definitions of “terrorism” and “violent extremism” are the prerogative of Member States and must be consistent with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights law. Just as the General Assembly has taken a practical approach to counter-terrorism through the adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, this Plan of Action pursues a practical approach to preventing violent extremism, without venturing to address questions of definition.

6. There is a need to take a more comprehensive approach which encompasses not only ongoing, essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, but also systematic preventive measures which directly address the drivers of violent extremism that have given rise to the emergence of these new and more virulent groups. In the Charter of the United Nations, Member States resolved to “take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace”. I have made it a priority to re-energize the Organization’s prevention agenda, especially with respect to preventing armed conflict, atrocities, disasters, violence against women and children, and conflict-related sexual violence, and have launched a dedicated initiative to place human rights upfront. The 2015 report of the High-level Independent Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (see A/70/95-S/2015/446), the report of the Advisory Group of Experts on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture (see A/69/968-S/2015/490), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development<sup>1</sup> and the women, peace and security agenda have all stressed the need to build a collective commitment to making

<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 70/1.



prevention work. The spread of violent extremism makes preventive efforts all the more relevant.

7. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously by the General Assembly by its resolution 60/288, explicitly addresses prevention and foresees balanced implementation across all four of its pillars: (a) tackling conditions conducive to terrorism; (b) preventing and combating terrorism; (c) building countries' capacity to combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; and (d) ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law while countering terrorism. Over the last decade, there has been a strong emphasis on the implementation of measures under pillar II of the Global Strategy, while pillars I and IV have often been overlooked. Ahead of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Strategy, in 2016, I am launching this Plan of Action, with a focus on preventive measures for addressing violent extremism, including by reinvigorating those measures covered under pillars I and IV of the Strategy, ensuring a more comprehensive implementation of the Strategy in view of the lessons learned over the past decade and the challenges that may lie ahead. In the context of its most recent review of the Strategy, the Assembly urged Member States "to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations". In doing so, we must be principled and strategic and must calibrate our response carefully. We must refocus our priorities, strengthen our application of justice, and rebuild the social compact between the governing and governed. We need to pay attention to why individuals are attracted to violent extremist groups. I am convinced that the creation of open, equitable, inclusive and pluralist societies, based on the full respect of human rights and with economic opportunities for all, represents the most tangible and meaningful alternative to violent extremism and the most promising strategy for rendering it unattractive.

8. While our understanding of the drivers of violent extremism has improved, enabling us to adapt and refine our actions, we have to accelerate our learning process to counter the speed with which this threat is evolving. While, collectively, we have the tools with which to address many of the grievances driving violent extremism, we have to learn to use and resource them effectively. United Nations entities, including the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat, the Peacebuilding Support Office and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), and my Envoy on Youth, as well as many other members of the United Nations family, have been working on issues relevant to preventing violent extremism. We need to build on lessons already learned to refine our actions and render them more effective.

9. We will not be successful unless we can harness the idealism, creativity and energy of young people and others who feel disenfranchised. Young people, who constitute the majority of the population of an increasing number of countries today, must be viewed as an asset and must be empowered to make a constructive contribution to the political and economic development of their societies and nations. They represent an untapped resource. We must offer them a positive vision



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of their future together with a genuine chance to realize their aspirations and potential.

10. In developing this Plan of Action, I have listened closely to the views of Member States and regional organizations. We also consulted internal and external experts, scholars and practitioners. I welcome the multilateral initiatives that have stressed the need for creative and innovative action to address violent extremism.

11. The founders of the United Nations believed in the power of our shared principles, purposes and values. Member States are obliged to adapt their actions to new realities without reneging on our common commitments. The moment we consider these common commitments dispensable we help those who disrespect them to achieve their goals. With this Plan of Action, I intend to stimulate global debate on how we can best leverage our comparative advantages to effectively prevent violent extremism.

## II. Impact of violent extremism

12. Violent extremism undermines our collective efforts towards maintaining peace and security, fostering sustainable development, protecting human rights, promoting the rule of law and taking humanitarian action.

### A. Peace and security

13. Violent extremist groups are contributing significantly to the cycle of insecurity and armed conflict affecting many regions of the world. Al-Qaida and its affiliates have sought to intimidate Governments into changing their policies through virulent propaganda campaigns and by staging spectacular attacks. The latest iteration of violent extremist and terrorist groups, ISIL in particular, has transformed the challenge further: benefiting from existing armed conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and instability in Iraq and in Libya, its members have managed to take over large swaths of territory and “govern” it according to their rules. They are mobile, well armed, tech-savvy and well organized. History has shown that volatile security situations and conflicts tend to be further exacerbated by “proxy” wars. Regional and international actors bear a particular responsibility for assisting countries in strife in returning to peace. I therefore welcome the recent constructive initiatives taken in the context of the International Syria Support Group, working in concert with the Security Council to promote a comprehensive solution to the crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic.

14. In seeking to supplant existing States and erase established borders, ISIL and Boko Haram are undermining state authority and destabilizing not just the territories most directly concerned, but also the surrounding regions. In Mali, terrorists came close to destroying the basic state structure, thereby affecting the stability of a country and of an entire region. Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb and other groups continue their activities in northern Mali with spillover effects in neighbouring countries. They put the presence and activities of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) at risk. As I noted in a recent report (S/2015/366), terrorist groups are also benefiting from transnational organized crime. Some violent extremist groups have developed







connections with transnational organized crime to increase their financial resources. They generate significant revenues from human trafficking and the slave trade, trafficking in antiquities, and the illicit sale of oil. Many of these groups are also involved in kidnapping for ransom.

15. It is critical that in responding to this threat, we recognize that violent extremists aim at provoking States into overreacting, and then exploit ill-conceived government action for their own propaganda ends. In killing 77 people in 2011, the Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik was explicitly aiming at destabilizing Norway's tolerant society by dividing local communities and provoking an overreaction. The obligations that Member States have undertaken in line with international law, including human rights instruments, provide a sound framework within which to respond to such attacks.

## **B. Sustainable development**

16. Countries struggling to cope with widespread violence have fared poorly in reaching the Millennium Development Goals which have shaped the development agenda over the last 15 years. Violent extremism aggravates perceptions of insecurity and can lead to repeated outbreaks of unrest which compromise sustained economic growth. In establishing the Sustainable Development Goals to guide our work over the next 15 years, Member States warned that violent extremism threatens to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades. By exploiting development challenges, such as inequalities, poverty and poor governance, violent extremism further exacerbates these grievances and thereby creates a vicious cycle of decline which affects marginalized groups in particular. Moreover, considering education a particular threat to the spread of their ideologies, terrorists have targeted young people, in particular girls, for their pursuit of a modern education as the path to a better life for themselves and their families and better societies. The kidnapping of girls by Boko Haram in Chibok, Nigeria, in April 2014; the killing of students by Al-Shabaab in Garissa, Kenya, in April 2015; and the attack by Tehrik-i-Taliban on the Army Public School in Peshawar, Pakistan, in December 2014, are just some of the most egregious recent examples of the threat of violent extremism.

17. Violent extremists are also disrupting the day-to-day work of development actors, including United Nations development agencies and United Nations country teams, which are trying to help Member States eradicate poverty, and reduce social inequalities and exclusion. As a consequence, United Nations field personnel and peacekeepers have been targeted.

## **C. Human rights and the rule of law**

18. Violent extremists pose a direct threat to the enjoyment of human rights, ranging from the right to life and the right to liberty and security of person, to freedom of expression, association, and thought, conscience and religion.

19. There is credible information indicating that terrorists and violent extremist groups like ISIL and its affiliates may have committed serious violations of international law, including genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. These groups also violate the rights of women and girls, including through sexual





enslavement, forced marriages and encroachment on their rights to education and participation in public life. In areas where ISIL and other terrorist and violent extremist groups currently operate, it appears that religious communities, and women, children, political activists, journalists, human rights defenders and members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community are being systematically targeted, abducted, displaced and murdered. Torture, and sexual and gender-based violence, are also reportedly widespread. Items and sites of great historical, religious and cultural significance are being wantonly destroyed in violation of the protection afforded to the cultural heritage under international humanitarian law.

20. A lack of accountability in conflict areas is contributing to an increase in these atrocious crimes. Impunity and injustice create an environment of insecurity and helplessness, undermining conflict mediation and resolution efforts, including political transitions. We need to end impunity for all those committing violations and crimes, including crimes under international law. At the same time, we must be vigilant in ensuring that Member States' efforts to address violent extremism are respectful of the rule of law and in accordance with their obligations under international human rights law, as well as international humanitarian law, if applicable. Certain rights are non-derogable even in time of public emergency which threatens the life of the nation.

#### **D. Humanitarian action**

21. At the end of 2014, the world was facing a situation where the number of forcibly displaced persons was the highest on record, a situation to which violent extremism was a significant contributing factor. It is not just the volume of displaced persons that is alarming, but also the rapid increase in their numbers, which has risen 40 per cent, from 42.5 million to 59.5 million in just three years. Internally displaced persons and refugees, particularly children, are at an increased risk of forced recruitment, including by violent extremist groups.

22. Violent extremist groups actively interfere with the provision of international humanitarian assistance, including food and vital medical aid, to populations in need by limiting the access of humanitarian actors to the areas controlled by those groups, or by seizing relief supplies. In situations of armed conflict, violent extremists routinely disregard the traditional protection, enshrined in international humanitarian law, accorded to humanitarian actors in conflict zones. As a result, many humanitarian workers have become targets themselves: 329 aid workers were killed, injured or kidnapped in 2014. While violent extremists groups are not the only actors using these despicable tactics, their growing influence is a significant contributory factor to the challenging operating environment confronted by humanitarian organizations.

### **III. Context and drivers of violent extremism**

23. In the past decade and a half, research has been conducted on the drivers of violent extremism. However, there is no authoritative statistical data on the pathways towards individual radicalization. While there are some recognizable trends and patterns, there are only a few areas of consensus that exist among





researchers. Qualitative research, based mainly on interviews, suggests that two main categories of drivers can be distinguished: “push factors”, or the conditions conducive to violent extremism and the structural context from which it emerges; and “pull factors”, or the individual motivations and processes, which play a key role in transforming ideas and grievances into violent extremist action. More research, both qualitative and quantitative, is required on this evolving phenomenon.

#### **A. Conditions conducive to and the structural context of violent extremism**

24. The available qualitative evidence points to the presence of certain recurrent drivers, which are common among a wide variety of countries and regions and which lead, sometimes in isolation and sometimes in combination with other factors, to radicalization and violent extremism.

##### **Lack of socioeconomic opportunities**

25. Countries that fail to generate high and sustainable levels of growth, to create decent jobs for their youth, to reduce poverty and unemployment, to improve equality, to control corruption and to manage relationships among different communities in line with their human rights obligations, are more prone to violent extremism and tend to witness a greater number of incidents linked to violent extremism. Citizens may consider weak development outcomes as confirmation of the lack of a government’s legitimacy, making state institutions less effective in responding to violent extremism when it arises. The absence of alternative employment opportunities can make violent extremist organizations an attractive source of income.

##### **Marginalization and discrimination**

26. No country is completely homogeneous. Diversity in and of itself does not lead to or increase a country’s vulnerability to violent extremism. However, when a country experiences insecurities such as scarce resources, and when one group, whatever its demographic weight, acts monopolistically in political and economic sectors at the expense of other groups, the potential for intercommunal tensions, gender inequality, marginalization, alienation and discrimination increases, as expressed through restricted access to public services and job opportunities and obstructions to regional development and freedom of religion. This, in turn, may incite those who feel disenfranchised to embrace violent extremism as a vehicle for advancing their goals.

##### **Poor governance, violations of human rights and the rule of law**

27. Violent extremism tends to thrive in an environment characterized by poor governance, democracy deficits, corruption and a culture of impunity for unlawful behaviour engaged in by the State or its agents. When poor governance is combined with repressive policies and practices which violate human rights and the rule of law, the potency of the lure of violent extremism tends to be heightened. Violations of international human rights law committed in the name of state security can facilitate violent extremism by marginalizing individuals and alienating key



constituencies, thus generating community support and sympathy for and complicity in the actions of violent extremists. Violent extremists also actively seek to exploit state repression and other grievances in their fight against the state. Thus, Governments that exhibit repressive and heavy-handed security responses in violation of human rights and the rule of law, such as profiling of certain populations, adoption of intrusive surveillance techniques and prolongation of declared states of emergency, tend to generate more violent extremists. International partners that are complicit in such action by States further corrupt public faith in the legitimacy of the wider international system.

28. The lack of adequate efforts, in line with international obligations, towards the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, exacerbated by discrimination against ethnic, national, gender, racial, religious, linguistic and other groups and the absence or curtailment of democratic space, can provide opportunities for exploitation by violent extremists. State institutions that do not adequately fulfil their international obligations to uphold these rights can fuel grievances and undermine not only their own effectiveness but also social norms and social cohesion.

29. In addition, more attention needs to be paid to devising efficient gender- and human rights-compliant reintegration strategies and programmes for those who have been convicted of terrorism-related offences as well as returning foreign terrorist fighters.

#### **Prolonged and unresolved conflicts**

30. Prolonged and unresolved conflicts tend to provide fertile ground for violent extremism, not only because of the suffering and lack of governance resulting from the conflict itself but also because such conflicts allow violent extremist groups to exploit deep-rooted grievances in order to garner support and seize territory and resources and control populations. Urgent measures must be taken to resolve protracted conflicts. Resolving these conflicts will undermine the impact of the insidious narratives of violent extremist groups. When prevention fails, our best strategy towards securing lasting peace and addressing violent extremism entails inclusive political solutions and accountability.

#### **Radicalization in prisons**

31. Research shows that harsh treatment in detention facilities can play a disconcertingly powerful role in the recruitment of a large number of individuals who have joined violent extremist groups and terrorist organizations. Several factors have been identified as spurring prisoners to seek protection by joining groups, including inhumane prison conditions and inhumane treatment of inmates, corrupt staff and security officers, gang activity, drug use, lack of security and proper facilities, and overcrowding. Safeguards need to be put in place to prevent the spread of extremist ideologies to other prisoners while upholding the protection afforded under international law to persons deprived of their liberty, including with respect to international standards and norms relating to solitary confinement.



## B. Processes of radicalization

32. Although the conditions conducive to violent extremism affect entire populations, only a small number of individuals are actually radicalized and turn to violence. Both complex individual motivations and human agency play a key role in exploiting these conditions and transforming ideas and grievances into violent action.

### Individual backgrounds and motivations

33. A negative personal experience which resonates with the narrative of violent extremist ideologies can heighten the chances that an individual will embrace violent extremism. Individual motivations vary from the serious to the routine: researchers have reported precipitating events as diverse as experiencing or witnessing torture, the death of a relative or friend at the hands of the security forces or a foreign power, unfair trials, the loss of property and the humiliation of a parent — and even the refusal of a personal loan.

34. While some highly educated individuals have played consequential roles in violent extremist organizations, many members are poorly educated, often not having completed secondary education. A large number have only rudimentary literacy levels and almost no religious knowledge or education, making them vulnerable to indoctrination. It is quite likely that they may have been engaged in petty crimes and illicit activities prior to their involvement with violent extremist groups. Membership in a group also promotes a sense of belonging or relief from the burden of alienation, isolation or anomie.

### Collective grievances and victimization

35. Historical legacies of, or collective grievances stemming from, domination, oppression, subjugation or foreign intervention can enable narratives of victimization to take hold. These narratives can provoke simple and powerful emotional reactions which may then be exploited by violent extremists: the memory of past or present actual or perceived oppressions is upheld so as to fuel the thirst for revenge against oppressors.

### Distortion and misuse of beliefs, political ideologies and ethnic and cultural differences

36. Violent extremist groups cynically distort and exploit religious beliefs, ethnic differences and political ideologies to legitimize their actions, establish their claim on territory and recruit followers. Distortion and misuse of religion are utilized to divide nations, cultures and people, undermining our humanity. Faith and community leaders are critical in mentoring vulnerable followers so as to enable them to reject violent ideologies and in providing opportunities for intra- and interfaith dialogue and discussion as a means of promoting tolerance, understanding and reconciliation between communities. Leaders, Governments, the international community and the media have to work together to prevent confrontation and polarization within and between countries, faiths, nations and peoples. We have to work jointly to halt this vicious cycle of provocation and response which often fuels the forces governing the nexus between conflict, terrorism and violent terrorism, as





seen in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, the Syrian Arab Republic, Yemen and other countries.

#### **Leadership and social networks**

37. While contextual factors, personal experiences and collective grievances can all contribute to the emergence of violent extremism, there must also be a social context that provides some form of organization and direction for these elements. This is often established through the intervention of a charismatic leader or political entrepreneur, and through informal family and social networks. It can be difficult to join violent extremist organizations unless you already know one of their members, this being an inevitable consequence of the fact that their activities are often exclusive and clandestine. However, in recent years, online tools have served as an additional, and more accessible, pathway to group membership.

### **IV. An Agenda for Action: recommendations on preventing violent extremism**

38. I have consistently called for the balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. While we need to continue our concerted efforts to counter violent extremism, we have to broaden our responses, engage earlier and address the drivers of violent extremism. We need to complement the countering of violent extremism with preventive measures. Making prevention an integral part of our comprehensive approach will help us tackle many of the underlying conditions that drive individuals to join violent extremist groups. As with the practice of prevention more generally, results may not be visible immediately and will require our long-term and patient engagement.

39. I therefore put forward for the consideration of Member States the following recommendations, which I believe will prevent and reduce the space for violent extremism while simultaneously addressing the immediate peace and security challenges through ongoing counter-terrorism measures. My recommendations identify actions that can be taken at the global, national and regional levels with a view to promoting a comprehensive and balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

#### **A. Setting the policy framework**

##### **A global framework for preventing violent extremism**

40. Preventing violent extremism is a commitment and obligation under the principles and values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights<sup>2</sup> and other international human rights instruments. To be effective and sustainable and in line with Member States' obligations under international law, all legislation, policies, strategies and practices adopted to prevent violent extremism must be firmly grounded in the respect for human rights and the rule of law.

<sup>2</sup> General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).



41. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have acknowledged that violent extremism has reached a level of threat and sophistication that requires concerted action beyond law enforcement, military or security measures to address development, good governance, human rights and humanitarian concerns. Strengthening the rule of law, repealing discriminatory legislation and implementing policies and laws that combat discrimination, marginalization and exclusion in law and in practice must be an essential component of any response to the threat posed by violent extremism.

42. In the past two years, the General Assembly has emphasized the need for united action on violent extremism: in the fourth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy;<sup>3</sup> in Assembly resolution 68/127, entitled “A world against violence and violent extremism”; and during the high-level thematic debate of the Assembly on the topic “Promoting tolerance and reconciliation: fostering peaceful, inclusive societies and countering violent extremism”, convened by the President of the Assembly in conjunction with the Secretary-General and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and held on 21 and 22 April 2015, as well as in the recent general debate of the Assembly at its seventieth session. The Security Council emphasized the need for measures to address violent extremism and stem the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in its resolution 2178 (2014), during the high-level open debate of the Council on the topic “The role of youth in countering violent extremism and promoting peace”, held on 23 April 2015, and in the statement by the President of the Council of 29 May 2015 (S/PRST/2015/11).

43. While we can set parameters at the global level, it is action at the local, national and regional levels that will have the most impact. I therefore count on Member States to translate our common commitment and political will to effect real change into new ways of formulating public policy so as to prevent violent extremism in their respective countries and regions. The Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Member States’ obligations under international law — in particular under international human rights law, refugee law and, if applicable, international humanitarian law — provide a strong foundation, and the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the guiding principles for counter-terrorism strategies, as identified at the International Conference on National and Regional Counter-Terrorism Strategies, held in Bogota from 31 January to 1 February 2013, provide additional guidance for national and regional plans of action. The processes for establishing national plans and regional strategies or refining existing ones should complement both the present Plan of Action and each other. The United Nations, through the 36 entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and an “All United Nations” approach, is ready to support Member States in developing such policies and plans. I will also direct resident coordinators, United Nations country teams and the regional United Nations Development Group teams to support Member States, upon their request, in developing their plans at the national and regional levels.

#### **National plans of action for preventing violent extremism**

44. Each Member State should consider developing a national plan of action to prevent violent extremism which sets national priorities for addressing the local drivers of violent extremism and complements national counter-terrorism strategies

<sup>3</sup> See General Assembly resolution 68/276.



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where they already exist. Based on the principle of national ownership and in accordance with international law, Member States may wish to consider the following elements in establishing such plans:

(a) National plans should be developed in a multidisciplinary manner, to include countering and preventing violent extremism measures, with input from a wide range of government actors, such as law enforcement, social service providers and ministries of education, youth and religious affairs, as well as non-governmental actors, including youth; families; women; religious, cultural and educational leaders; civil society organizations; the media; and the private sector. Analyses of local and national drivers of violent extremism form an important point of departure for developing national plans;

(b) National plans should fortify the social compact against violent extremism by promoting respect for the principle of equality before the law and equal protection under the law in all government-citizen relations, and developing effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels, as well as ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making. I encourage parliamentarians to provide the legislative foundation for national plans of action for preventing violent extremism consistent with their national and international obligations, where necessary;

(c) National plans should address the issue of foreign terrorist fighters, as called for in Security Council resolution 2178 (2014). In that resolution, the Council decided that States should ensure that their legal systems provide for the prosecution of travel for terrorism or related training; and that States should also address the financing or facilitation of such activities and prevent entry or transit through their territories, including through the usage of internationally accepted databases, of any individual with respect to whom there is credible information that provides reasonable grounds for believing that this travel is undertaken for the purpose of participating in a terrorist act. The guiding principles on stemming the flow of foreign terrorist fighters agreed at the special meeting of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, held in Madrid on 28 July 2015, could be useful in this regard;

(d) National plans should prevent violent extremist and terrorist groups from trading in oil and antiquities, hostage-taking, and receiving donations, in line with Member States' obligations under Security Council resolution 2199 (2015);

(e) One means of addressing many of the drivers of violent extremism will be to align national development policies with the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically ending poverty in all its forms everywhere (Goal 1); ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all (Goal 4); achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Goal 5); promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (Goal 8); reducing inequality within and among countries (Goal 10); making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (Goal 11); and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (Goal 16);





(f) National plans should dedicate funding for implementation by government and non-governmental entities and promote public-private partnerships, where applicable;

(g) Effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms for these plans are essential to ensuring that policies are having the desired impact.

### **Regional plans of action to prevent violent extremism**

45. As violent extremism does not respect borders, national and global action has to be complemented by enhanced regional cooperation. Several subregions and regions have already adopted comprehensive counter-terrorism strategies. Member States should come together to complement those strategies or adopt new regional or subregional plans of action to prevent violent extremism, facilitated by regional or subregional organizations and the United Nations, with a view to complementing and reinforcing their national plans. To this end, Member States should:

(a) Strengthen subregional and regional organizations, including by creating and maintaining regional contact lists of focal points, monitoring the trafficking of small arms and heavy weapons, and facilitating intergovernmental communication and cooperation. Establishing early warning centres for the exchange of information on violent extremist activities could render this interaction more predictable and could thus be of additional value;

(b) Enable subregional and regional organizations to provide technical assistance to Member States in the respective subregion or region in building capacity for preventing violent extremism and support effective cooperation, for example, on border management.

### **Mobilizing resources**

46. To transform our commitment into lasting change, we need to make more efficient use of existing funds and consider how, based on the interdependence of political, social and economic drivers of violent extremism, we can create synergies in our resource allocation. Moreover, within the peace and security sector, there is a growing understanding that many preventive measures, traditionally understood to be part of development efforts, can help address these drivers. The newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals explicitly include goals and targets related to preventing violence and promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.

47. Investment in prevention is far more cost-effective than allocating resources to mitigating consequences. I therefore recommend considering:

(a) Adjusting the focus of existing funds dedicated to countering terrorism and violent extremism to enable them to also address the drivers of violent extremism, and thereby ultimately using available resources more effectively;

(b) Identifying other funding sources across sectors and evaluating how Governments and regional and international institutions could adapt existing funds so as to expand programming that is sensitive to preventing violent extremism.

## B. Taking action

48. In developing national plans of action and regional strategies, Member States should consider addressing the elements outlined below.

### Dialogue and conflict prevention

49. In my report to the Security Council entitled “The United Nations and conflict prevention: a collective recommitment” (S/2015/730), I noted that the risk of violent extremism often increases in the same conditions that lead to heightened risk of conflict. Where conflict already exists, we must redouble our efforts to promote and sustain dialogue between warring parties, since persistent unresolved conflict is proving to be a major driver of violent extremism. While we may benefit in these situations from using some of the tools already developed to prevent conflict, we have also started developing specific initiatives for the prevention of violent extremism through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, such as a Task Force working group on the prevention of violent extremism and a Task Force working group on the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and a regional youth engagement and skills development programme. I therefore recommend that Member States:

(a) Ensure that, in circumstances where military action becomes necessary to counter the expansion of violent extremist groups, any such response is in full compliance with international law, in particular with the Charter of the United Nations, international human rights law, international refugee law and international humanitarian law;

(b) Engage opposing parties and regional actors earlier on and seek to forge international consensus so as to give regional and United Nations diplomacy the leverage that it needs to broker solutions. Delaying engagement reduces options, and increases financial and human costs;

(c) Encourage individuals to leave violent extremist groups by developing programmes that place an emphasis on providing them with educational and economic opportunities. To avert perceptions of injustice which might result from extending assistance to these perpetrators, such programmes should not draw from initiatives addressing the needs of the wider civilian population;

(d) Explore opportunities to introduce alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, such as mediation, arbitration and restorative justice, to resolve conflict and achieve sustainable peace;

(e) Engage religious leaders to provide a platform for intra- and interfaith dialogue and discussions through which to promote tolerance and understanding between communities, and voice their rejection of violent doctrines by emphasizing the peaceful and humanitarian values inherent in their theologies. Religious leaders also have a responsibility to themselves to seek such understanding. Tolerance is not passive: it demands the active choice to reach out on a basis of mutual understanding and respect, especially where disagreement exists;

(f) Preserve the heritage of cultural and religious diversity against the attempts by violent extremists to destroy manuscripts, objects and sites that are symbols of pluralism and tolerance;

(g) Convene regional and national dialogues on preventing violent extremism with a range of actors, encompassing youth engagement, gender equality, the inclusion of marginalized groups, the role of municipalities, and positive outreach through social media and other virtual platforms.

**Strengthening good governance, human rights and the rule of law**

50. When Governments embrace international human rights norms and standards, promote good governance, uphold the rule of law and eliminate corruption, they create an enabling environment for civil society and reduce the appeal of violent extremism. Policies and initiatives that are firmly grounded in human rights are essential to ensuring the inclusion of individuals or communities that are vulnerable to violent extremism. We need to find ways to strengthen trust between government institutions and communities to prevent real or perceived marginalization and exclusion. I therefore recommend that Member States:

(a) Review all national legislation, policies, strategies and practices aimed at preventing and countering violent extremism to ascertain whether they are firmly grounded in respect for human rights and the rule of law, and whether they put in place national mechanisms designed to ensure compliance. This may also involve taking measures to strengthen the rule of law, repealing discriminatory legislation and implementing policies and laws that combat discrimination and exclusion;

(b) Provide access to justice for all and strengthen fair, effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c) Foster non-discriminatory basic service provision, ensure accountability for service delivery, and extend state services to remote areas and create an environment where entrepreneurship can flourish and societies can become more peaceful, just and inclusive;

(d) Strengthen the professionalism of security forces, law enforcement agencies and justice institutions; and ensure effective oversight and accountability of such bodies, in conformity with international human rights law and the rule of law. This may involve providing dedicated human rights training to security forces, law enforcement agents and all those involved in the administration of justice regarding the prohibition of incitement to hatred and, more broadly, respect for human rights within the context of measures taken to counter violent extremism and terrorism;

(e) Ensure accountability for gross violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, including those amounting to crimes under international law, such as war crimes and crimes against humanity, through criminal procedures adhering to due-process guarantees. Accountability mechanisms should have relevant gender expertise to fulfil their mandates. In cases where national procedures are not able or are unwilling to address such crimes, the international community should support accountability efforts, including through a referral of such situations by the Security Council to the International Criminal Court or to an ad hoc tribunal, where appropriate;

(f) Reform national legal frameworks and penitentiary systems to ensure the security of inmates, personnel and facilities and establish procedures to prevent and counter radicalization in prisons based on human rights and the rule of law;



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(g) Introduce disengagement, rehabilitation and counselling programmes for persons engaged in violent extremism which are gender-sensitive and include programmes for children to facilitate their reintegration into society. These programmes must be in full compliance with international human rights norms and standards, including the rights to freedom of movement, freedom of expression and privacy, gender equality and the principle of non-discrimination;

(h) Promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, including through human rights-based initiatives that help eliminate the conditions conducive to violent extremism. Such programmes can be particularly helpful when one group, whatever its demographic weight, behaves monopolistically in the political and economic sectors at the expense of other groups;

(i) Implement Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), promoting a comprehensive approach to incitement and violent extremism, and the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (A/HRC/22/17/Add.4, appendix), involving all relevant actors, such as national human rights institutions, civil society, political parties and the media;

(j) Prevent the subversion of the work of educational, cultural and religious institutions by terrorists and their supporters, as highlighted in Security Council resolution 1624 (2005); take appropriate measures against all forms of intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief, as exhibited in particular in the curricula of formal and non-formal educational institutions, and textbooks and teaching methods;

(k) Ensure that any restrictions on freedom of expression are clearly and narrowly defined and meet the three-part test of legality, proportionality and necessity.

### **Engaging communities**

51. For their survival, violent extremists require the tacit support of a wider circle of sympathizers. If violent extremists can be deprived of this support, their capacity to cause harm and evade justice will be greatly reduced. While engagement with communities marked by a long history of distrust of the government can pose a challenge, there are a number of community engagement strategies that hold promise. I therefore recommend that Member States:

(a) Develop joint and participatory strategies, including with civil society and local communities, to prevent the emergence of violent extremism, protect communities from recruitment and the threat of violent extremism, and support confidence-building measures at the community level by providing appropriate platforms for dialogue and the early identification of grievances;

(b) Adopt community-oriented policing models and programmes that seek to solve local issues in partnership with the community and are firmly based on human rights so as to avoid putting community members at risk. This would increase public awareness and vigilance and improve police understanding and knowledge with regard to communities, thus enhancing their ability to be proactive and identify grievances and critical issues at an early stage;





(c) Develop local and family-based mentorship programmes, based on a one-to-one relationship between mentor and mentee, focusing on vulnerable individuals or those who have been convicted of or charged with criminal acts related to violent extremism;

(d) Provide medical, psychosocial and legal service support in communities that give shelter to victims of violent extremists, including victims of sexual and gender-based crimes;

(e) Encourage civic and professional associations, unions and chambers of commerce to reach out through their own networks to marginalized groups so as to address challenges together through inclusive dialogue and consensual politics;

(f) Support the establishment of regional and global networks for civil society, youth, women's organizations and religious leaders to enable them to share good practices and experience so as to improve work in their respective communities and promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue;

(g) Promote, in partnership with civil society and communities, a discourse that addresses the drivers of violent extremism, including ongoing human rights violations. Address any existing human rights violations, as a matter of both legal obligation and credibility.

### **Empowering youth**

52. We must pay particular attention to youth. The world's 1.8 billion young women and men constitute an invaluable partner in our striving to prevent violent extremism. We have to identify better tools with which to support young people as they take up the causes of peace, pluralism and mutual respect. The rapid advance of modern communications technology also means that today's youth form a global community of an unprecedented kind. This interconnectivity is already being exploited by violent extremists; we need to reclaim this space by helping to amplify the voices of young people already promoting the values of mutual respect and peace to their peers. I therefore recommend that Member States:

(a) Support and enhance young women's and young men's participation in activities aimed at preventing violent extremism by prioritizing meaningful engagement mechanisms at the national, regional and global levels, as laid out in the 2015 Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security; and provide a physically, socially and emotionally safe and supportive environment for the participation of young women and men in preventing violent extremism;

(b) Integrate young women and men into decision-making processes at local and national levels, including by establishing youth councils and similar mechanisms which give young women and men a platform for participating in mainstream political discourse;

(c) Foster trust between decision makers and young women and men, especially through intergenerational dialogue and youth-adult confidence-building activities and training;

(d) Involve hard-to-reach young women and men, such as those from underrepresented groups, in efforts to prevent violent extremism, as laid out in the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding;





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(e) Establish national mentoring programmes for young women and men, create space for personal growth in their chosen fields, and offer opportunities for community service which can enable them to become leaders and actors for constructive change;

(f) Ensure that a portion of all funds dedicated to addressing violent extremism are committed to projects that address young people's specific needs or empower them and encourage international financial institutions, foundations and other donors to provide small grant funding mechanisms to women and young social entrepreneurs to enable them to develop their own ideas on strengthening community resilience against violent extremism.

### **Gender equality and empowering women**

53. Women's empowerment is a critical force for sustainable peace. While women do sometimes play an active role in violent extremist organizations, it is also no coincidence that societies for which gender equality indicators are higher are less vulnerable to violent extremism. We must therefore ask ourselves how we can better promote women's participation, leadership and empowerment across society, including in governmental, security sector and civil society institutions. In line with Security Council resolution 2242 (2015), we must ensure that the protection and empowerment of women is a central consideration of strategies devised to counter terrorism and violent extremism. There is also a need to ensure that efforts to counter terrorism and violent extremism do not impact adversely on women's rights. I therefore recommend that Member States:

(a) Mainstream gender perspectives across efforts to prevent violent extremism;

(b) Invest in gender-sensitive research and data collection on women's roles in violent extremism, including on identifying the drivers that lead women to join violent extremist groups, and on the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on their lives, in order to develop targeted and evidence-based policy and programming responses;

(c) Include women and other underrepresented groups in national law enforcement and security agencies, including as part of counter-terrorism prevention and response frameworks;

(d) Build the capacity of women and their civil society groups to engage in prevention and response efforts related to violent extremism;

(e) Ensure that a portion of all funds dedicated to addressing violent extremism are committed to projects that address women's specific needs or empower women, as recommended in my recent report to the Security Council on women and peace and security (S/2015/716).

### **Education, skills development and employment facilitation**

54. As part of the struggle against poverty and social marginalization, we need to ensure that every child receives a quality education which equips him or her for life, as stipulated under the right to education. Education should include teaching respect for human rights and diversity, fostering critical thinking, promoting media and digital literacy, and developing the behavioural and socioemotional skills that can





contribute to peaceful coexistence and tolerance. Young women and men entering the workplace need our support — both in gaining access to continued learning and vocational resources, and in incubating their entrepreneurial talent. I therefore recommend that Member States:

- (a) Invest in education, in particular early childhood education, from ages 3 to 8, to ensure that all children have access to inclusive, high-quality education, taking into account diverse social and cultural settings;
- (b) Implement education programmes that promote “global citizenship”, soft skills, critical thinking and digital literacy, and explore means of introducing civic education into school curricula, textbooks and teaching materials. Build the capacity of teachers and educators to support this agenda;
- (c) Provide comprehensive primary through tertiary education, including technical and vocational education, and mentoring for all vulnerable people, including the displaced, by leveraging online and mobile technology;
- (d) Collaborate with local authorities to create social and economic opportunities, in both rural and urban locations; invest in equipping people with the skills needed to meet local labour demands through relevant education opportunities;
- (e) Provide young people with additional career options by fostering an entrepreneurial culture and offering entrepreneurship education, facilitating employment searches and job-matching, enacting regulations to promote the development of micro and small enterprises, easing access to finance and microcredit and increasing the range of support services such as marketing and distribution, so as to unleash the full economic potential of youth;
- (f) Invite the private sector and other civil society actors to contribute to post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction efforts, especially job creation, facilitation and training opportunities.

#### **Strategic communications, the Internet and social media**

55. The manipulative messages of violent extremists on social media have achieved considerable success in luring people, especially young women and men, into their ranks. While violent extremists have demonstrated some sophistication in their use of old and new media tools, it is equally true that we who reject their message have largely failed to communicate to those who are disillusioned and disenfranchised a vision of the future that captures their imagination and offers the prospect of tangible change. Thousands of young activists and artists are fighting back against violent extremism online through music, art, film, comics and humour, and they deserve our support. I therefore recommend that Member States:

- (a) Develop and implement national communications strategies, in close cooperation with social media companies and the private sector, that are tailored to local contexts, gender sensitive and based on international human rights standards, to challenge the narratives associated with violent extremism;
- (b) Encourage more research on the relationship between the misuse of the Internet and social media by violent extremists and the factors that drive individuals towards violent extremism;





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- (c) Promote grass-roots efforts to advance the values of tolerance, pluralism and understanding;
- (d) Ensure that national legal frameworks protect freedom of opinion and expression, pluralism, and diversity of the media;
- (e) Empower and enable victims to transform their loss and suffering into a constructive force for preventing violent extremism by providing them with online forums where they can tell their stories;
- (f) Protect journalists, who play a crucial role in democratic societies, by ensuring the prompt and thorough investigation of threats to their safety, and encourage journalists to work together to voluntarily develop media training and industry codes of conduct which foster tolerance and respect.

### **C. Supporting Member States, regional bodies and communities through the United Nations**

56. The primary responsibility for preventing violent extremism rests with Member States. As they develop their response, the United Nations can act as a natural partner. The United Nations can help foster global dialogue, uniting countries, people and communities on the basis of universally shared values and principles as enshrined in international law, including human rights instruments.

57. In cooperation with Member States, United Nations missions, programmes and projects are already addressing the underlying drivers and triggers of violent extremism. Violent extremist groups, which recognize the power of these tools, are targeting peacekeepers, human rights advocates, educators, civil society activists and aid workers in order to weaken our resolve and our results. We need to be more strategic and better coordinated in our activities in order to enhance coherence across the full spectrum of security, sustainable development, human rights and humanitarian assistance. This will require that United Nations peace and security efforts and sustainable development policy frameworks address the drivers of violent extremism, that we further strengthen the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and the rule of law and that humanitarian principles are respected, that humanitarian actors have the necessary space within which to operate and that our humanitarian work is people-centred, supports resilient communities and does not fuel conflict.

58. I have instructed United Nations entities to redouble their efforts in coordinating and developing activities with Member States, to prioritize, sensitize and adapt existing programmes to permit them to target the drivers of violent extremism more precisely and to introduce new initiatives to close potential gaps. I therefore intend to:

- (a) Adopt an All-of-UN approach to supporting national, regional and global efforts to prevent violent extremism through the United Nations Chief Executives Board for Coordination, as well as through existing United Nations inter-agency bodies and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its entities, which bear the primary responsibility for supporting Member States in implementing all four pillars of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. By adopting an All-of-UN approach through the Task Force framework, the Organization will







coordinate its action more closely and help channel and share initiatives that have proved effective;

(b) Integrate preventing violent extremism into relevant activities of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions in accordance with their mandates, as well as into relevant activities of United Nations country teams in order to build the capacity of Member States through such mechanisms as the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, the United Nations common country assessments, youth advisory Boards, the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections, and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform programming;

(c) Encourage United Nations governing and executive boards to enhance the capacities of United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to support Member States in developing and implementing their national plans of action for preventing violent extremism;

(d) Offer capacity-building programmes aimed at strengthening national and regional capacities to develop institutional plans designed to prevent violent extremism and share good practices, and assist Member States in adopting relevant legislation and policies in close coordination with the relevant United Nations country teams, special representatives of the Secretary-General, peace operations where deployed, and entities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre;

(e) Launch a United Nations global communications strategy to prevent violent extremism, grounded in United Nations core values of peace, justice, tolerance and human dignity as they are enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other instruments, reinforcing these shared values around the world and supporting Member States in tailoring their own national and local communication strategies, upon their request;

(f) Further strengthen early and effective action through the Human Rights Upfront Initiative to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law, at both the policy and the operational level;

(g) Develop a standing United Nations prevention of violent extremism platform to direct the implementation of this Plan, facilitated by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and supported by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre. This platform would coordinate policy within the United Nations system and support Member States in developing their institutional responses to violent extremism at the local, national and regional levels by sharing lessons learned. It should foster cooperation between Member States, including through South-South and triangular partnerships;

(h) Support Governments seeking to develop and implement education programmes that promote civic education, soft skills, critical thinking, digital literacy, tolerance and respect for diversity, including, for example, peace education modules for the use of school-age children, in order to promote the culture of non-violence;





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- (i) Launch a global awareness campaign to support victims of violent extremism and provide them with a global platform within which to share their stories by expanding the Victims of Terrorism Support Portal;
- (j) Encourage youth exchange programmes within and among Member States, which could be further developed into global community service and global youth programmes to enhance cross-cultural understanding, promote learning of new skills and support development initiatives;
- (k) Invite relevant private actors, including communications and social media companies, to support the prevention of violent extremism initiatives and generate creative ideas to help the international community effectively address the spread of violent extremism through the Internet;
- (l) Develop a proposal for a Secretary-General's fund to support innovative projects aimed at preventing violent extremism, especially in the fields of communications and community empowerment.

## V. An appeal for concerted action

59. Undermining our common humanity, violent extremism is inherently global. It is driven by a mixture of personal, societal and ideational factors whose manifestations vary from one individual to the next. Violent extremism has affected different societies during different eras and in different regions of the world. The present plan of action does not provide a single solution to this challenge — there is no one tool or approach that will put it to rest forever. Instead, we need to broaden the way we think about this threat and take measures to prevent it from proliferating. What is most alarming in the present context is the rapid expansion of violent extremist ideologies in different parts of the world, which is being facilitated by the technological revolution. In the true spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, we must take action now in order to save succeeding generations.

60. To be effective in preventing violent extremism, our actions have to be as agile and far-reaching as the phenomenon itself. We have to improve our set of tools dynamically and keep reviewing our responses. The Plan of Action constitutes the inaugural basis for a comprehensive approach to this fast evolving, multidimensional challenge. I have asked my staff to keep the action of the United Nations under constant review and to provide me with updates regarding what we might also be doing.

61. I am convinced that unity in principled action will overcome the rhetoric and appeal of violent extremism and, ultimately, the violent extremist groups themselves. At a time of growing polarization on a number of national, regional and global issues, preventing violent extremism offers a real opportunity for the members of the international community to unite, harmonize their actions and pursue inclusive approaches in the face of division, intolerance and hatred.

62. The General Assembly is the only body that can speak with a global voice to all parts of the world where violent extremists seek to spread intolerance and division. I therefore call upon all Member States to use that voice to send forth a resounding appeal for unity and action.





## ANNEX I

### Organizers' Profiles

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE

PCID and ASP have been able to bring together a strong advisory committee to guide the development and implementation of the Conference. The members of the Advisory Committee are:

##### Chairman

**His Excellency Fidel V. Ramos**, former President

##### Members

- **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong**, former ASEAN Secretary General
- **Minister Surin Pitsuwan**, former ASEAN Secretary General
- **Secretary Jesus G. Dureza**, National Peace Adviser
- **Secretary Hermogenes C. Esperon, Jr.**, National Security Adviser
- **Hon. Ruby M. Sahali**, Representative, Lone Congressional District of Tawi-tawi
- **Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion**, President of the University of the Philippines
- **Cardinal Orlando Quevedo**, Archbishop of Cotabato
- **Dr. Pak Muhammad Sirajuddin Syamsuddin**, Professor of UIN Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta; Former Chairman, Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
- **Mufti Abdulwahid Inju**, Commissioner, National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
- **Ambassador Delia D. Albert**, President of the ASEAN Society – Philippines
- **Ramon S. Ang**, President of San Miguel Corporation
- **Amina Rasul-Bernardo**, President of the Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy





## ABOUT THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY (PCID)

The Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy is a non-partisan, non-profit organization dedicated to the study of Islamic and democratic political thought and the search for peace, democracy, and development in Muslim communities. First established as a council in 2002, PCID was formed amid global and domestic challenges confronting Islam and Muslims.

The PCID seeks to articulate the voice of the Bangsamoro and Muslims in the Philippines, enabling their meaningful participation in both the global discourse on Islam and democracy and the struggle for self-determination and development. Through the years, PCID has become an important platform for the articulation of the Moro voices through its various publications and forums, focusing on the issues of peace and development, Islam and democracy, human rights, and genuine autonomy, among others. PCID has been working with Muslim religious leaders since 2004 on peaceful resolution of conflict and human rights advocacy.

PCID is primarily a think tank that ENGAGES IN ACTION RESEARCH, ADVOCACY AND LINKAGING that leads to the attainment of a just peace, responsive governance and sustainable development for the Bangsamoro and for all Muslims at large.

As a think tank it provides value added to the wide tapestry of organizations and initiatives working for the Bangsamoro and all Muslims by defining a distinctive line of work where no other organization is currently positioned at. This distinctive line of work is as follows: PCID builds information based on scholarly work, ground research, and modeling; synthesizes this information into knowledge that can be used by policy makers, civil society, and national government and Bangsa Moro leaders; shares these information and knowledge to specific audiences; leverages these knowledge through strategic partnerships for greater reach; and shapes the direction of policies and programs for the Bangsamoro through the same strategic partnerships.

PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY (PCID)

NCPAG Annex Building, R. P. De Guzman St., University of the Philippines (UP-Campus), Diliman, Quezon City, 1101 Philippines

Telephone Nos: 426.5886 | Telefax: 426.9972

Office Mobile No.: 0917.5826367

Email Address: [pcid.mainsecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:pcid.mainsecretariat@gmail.com)





## ABOUT THE ASEAN SOCIETY - PHILIPPINES (ASP)

ASEAN Society Philippines is a private sector led civil society organization spearheaded by regional experts and distinguished luminaries in various fields including diplomacy, and groups engaged in the politico-security, economic, and socio-cultural facets of the ASEAN Community.

Leading the ASEAN Society Philippines is former Philippine president Fidel V. Ramos, who serves as the organization's Emeritus Chairman. He is joined by Delia Domingo-Albert, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs; Edgardo J. Angara, former senator and president of the University of the Philippines; Dr. Federico M. Macaranas, Chairman of the Asian Institute of Management's Economics Department and former Undersecretary of Foreign Affairs and Chair of the APEC SOM 1996; Amina Rasul-Bernardo, former Presidential Adviser on Youth Affairs; Junie del Mundo, Chief Executive of EON The Stakeholder Relations Group; and Amb. Elizabeth Buensuceso, Philippine Representative to ASEAN.

Through a wide variety of initiatives, the ASEAN Society Philippines aims to translate the work of ASEAN into people-to-people programs that will enable citizens of member countries to acquire greater appreciation of the work of ASEAN in uplifting the region in the global stage.





S. RAJARATNAM  
SCHOOL OF  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDIES

## ABOUT THE S. RAJARATNAM SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (RSIS)

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was established in January 2007 as an autonomous school within the Nanyang Technological University. Known earlier as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies when it was established in July 1996, RSIS' mission is to be a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. To accomplish this mission, it will:

- Provide a rigorous professional graduate education with a strong practical emphasis
- Conduct policy-relevant research in defence, national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy
- Foster a global network of like-minded professional schools

Research is also conducted in RSIS' National Security Studies Programme, and the Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme. In general, research at RSIS focuses on issues relating to the security and stability of the Asia Pacific region and their implications for Singapore and other countries in the region.





## ABOUT THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS (OPAPP)

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process or OPAPP is the office mandated to oversee, coordinate, and integrate the implementation of the comprehensive peace process. The agency was created through Executive Order No. 125, s. 1993 which was later amended in 2001 with the signing of Executive Order No. 3, s. 2001 as a reaffirmation of the government's commitment to achieving just and lasting peace through a comprehensive peace process.

The Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) is working towards a just and lasting peace for the nation and for all Filipinos.



## ANNEX J

### Conference Photographs



*H.E. Fidel V. Ramos*



*Left to Right: Usec. Catalino Cuy, Amb. Ong Keng Yong, Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo, H.E. Fidel V. Ramos, Sec. Jesus Dureza, Amb. Delia Albert, Sec. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.*







*Left to Right: Dr. Rohan Gunaratna, Usec. Catalino Cuy, Mr. Ola Almgren, Mr. Samuel Grunhard, Dr. Hanny Cueva-Beteta, Ms. Yenny Wahid*



*Ms. Yenny Wahid*

*Mr. Ola Almgren**Mr. Samuel Grunhard*



Hon. Jesus G. Dureza



Mr. Titon Mitra



*Mr. Shafqat Memhood*



*Dr. Clarita R. Carlos*







*Hon. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.*



*Dr. Kumar Ramakrishna*



*Amb. Luis Antonio Calvo Castaño and Mr. Juan Pita*





*Former Senator Rodolfo Biazon and Ms. Karen Tañada*



*Amb. Macabangkit Lanto*





*Amb. Andrea Reichlin*



*Hon. Ruby M. Sahali, Amb. David Strachan*







*Left to Right: Prof. Samina Yasmeen, Amb. Marion Derckx, Amb. Andrea Reichlin*





*Ms. Amina Rasul-Bernardo with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF)*



*Left to Right: Dr. Sam Chittick, Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim, Dr. Syafiq Mughni, Mr. Lufti Hakim, Ms. Maria Ressa, Mr. Sunai Phasuk, Mr. Laurence Lien, Mr. Augusto Miclat, Jr.*





*Ms. Rahimah Abdulrahim*



*Dr. Sam Chittick*







*Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa*



Left to Right: Mr. Muhammad Saiful Alam Shah Bin Sudiman, Ms. Jasmine Binti Mohamed Jawhar, Dr. Aruna Gopinath, Mr. Romadon Panjor, Mr. Ustadz Esmael Ebrahim



Left to Right: Ms. Melinda Holmes, Hon. Angkhana Neelapaijit, Ms. Visaka Dharmadasa, Prof. Samina Yasmeen, Ms. Mra Sabai Nyun, Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana, Ms. Anisa Taha

*Dr. Ichsan Malik**Left to Right: Ms. Maria Aurora Geotina-Garcia, Mr. John Perrine, Mr. Edward Bullecer*



