

Draft Follow-On Action Agenda

The White House Summit
to Counter Violent Extremism
Ministerial Meeting
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Action Agenda Item 1: Promoting Local Research and Information-Sharing on the Drivers of Violent Extremism

Over the past decade, much of the research on terrorist radicalization and recruitment has focused on individuals or societies, leaving gaps in our ability to fully understand what drives violent extremism in specific, localized contexts. There is growing recognition that the factors contributing to particular communities' vulnerability or resilience to violent extremism are contextual, and that efforts to counter and prevent violent extremism will be more effective if tailored to those specific factors. Deeper research is therefore needed to understand the factors that enable or prevent the spread of violent extremism at the community level. Greater insight into these drivers will allow us to design more effective interventions.

Governments and the broader international community can a) do more to encourage and carry out research that will help us understand what makes communities vulnerable to violent extremism; b) identify neighborhoods or communities at the sub-national level and within cities that are at risk of radicalization to violence; c) study the factors that drive violent extremism within these specific communities, along with the potential impact of possible responses; d) share this information broadly with policymakers, practitioners, and the communities themselves; and e) develop better tools with which to monitor and evaluate the results and impact of progress aimed at addressing violent extremism.

This is not simply a matter of creating research capacity from scratch, but about better utilizing, supporting, and connecting the existing knowledge base, particularly among local experts; expanding the pool of local CVE academics and researchers; encouraging inter-disciplinary approaches involving teams of economists, political scientists, psychologists, anthropologists, communications and marketing experts as well as others; and ensuring that findings are widely shared.

Hedayah is taking the first step towards this goal through its research unit, which can serve as a resource hub for practitioners and experts. It recently held a major CVE research conference, and it plans to build in-house capacity to conduct long-term research to complement governmental and academic efforts. Through its non-resident fellowship program, *Hedayah* is also starting to develop a small field-based network of local researchers.

To enhance these research efforts, which will also facilitate more effective and targeted interventions against violent extremism, the international community should consider, *inter alia*:

- Encouraging relevant academic and research institutions to focus more attention on studying the drivers of violent extremism and facilitating the wide sharing of this research.
- Mentoring local researchers and providing financial and/or in-kind support for their efforts.
- Supporting small, multi-disciplinary networks of in-country researchers – from local universities, civil society organizations, survey firms, and government agencies – to identify and address gaps in our understanding of the drivers of violent extremism within communities at risk.
- Working with and through *Hedayah*'s nascent research network to identify and address research gaps; catalyze local efforts to identify critical CVE needs; and mobilize the necessary expertise and resources to address such needs.
- Supporting the creation of an online platform for researchers working on drivers of radicalization, which could be used to compile a set of best practices on this extremely localized research, and compile appropriate data-sets on those who have been radicalized to violence, with a central library or website to make these resources available to communities, governments, think tanks, and academic institutions.
- Sponsoring multi-disciplinary research on community-level support of, or resilience to, violent extremism, to enhance our understanding of why some communities resort to violence when faced with pressures to do so; how and why some communities choose to reject violent extremism; what types of targeted interventions could boost such resiliencies; and where opportunities exist to prevent radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism.
- Organizing an international research conference on the margins of the leaders' summit against violent extremism in New York in September 2015 to a) highlight innovative research on the drivers of violent extremism and field-tested efforts to prevent and counter it; and b) identify existing effective community-level approaches to resist and address drivers of violent extremism and how these can be further strengthened through outside support. The conference also would provide an opportunity to build cross- and/or sub-regional networks of civil society leaders and organizations who are working in their own community to prevent and

counter violent extremism; to facilitate the sharing of relevant experiences and best practices; and to support efforts to expand their impact in the CVE space.

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Action Agenda Item 2: Civil Society, including the Role of Women and Youth in Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Women's role in propagating and countering violent extremism is understudied, though a vital element to understand in order to effectively address violent extremism. We know that women are not just victims. We know—and must recognize—that women are partners in prevention and response, as well as agents of change. They can play a role in detecting early signs of radicalization and in staving it off. They can help delegitimize narratives.

Unemployed, marginalized, and sometimes impoverished young women and men are more vulnerable to being recruited and re-recruited into violent extremism. However, we have also seen radicalization of young individuals that are seemingly well-integrated, coming from comfortable backgrounds, and succeeding in education and other programs. Youth radicalization and recruitment is often based on social bonding, rather than ideology. Youth without the opportunity to discuss or constructively act on their needs for identity or a sense of alienation within their homes, communities or countries may turn to violent extremist groups to find recognition, fellowship, and identity. Youth may join these groups because they offer economic incentives, the sense of belonging, as well as empowerment and a sense of adventure. Providing youth with opportunities to build positive identities through community engagement, civic participation and livelihoods can provide alternatives to violent extremism.

GCERF, the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund, is a public-private partnership that will support local, community-level initiatives in an effort to build resilience to violent extremist agendas. GCERF is the first global fund operating at the nexus of security and development. It is anticipated that GCERF funds will support grass-roots, civil society-focused initiatives to empower women and youth and provide them with positive alternatives and opportunities.

Independent civil society organizations, including human rights monitoring and promotion organizations, have an essential role to play in preventing and countering violent extremism. For example, they offer venues for non-violent exchanges and other discussion on social, religious, economic, and political issues can take place; provide platforms where peaceful counter-narratives to violent extremism can develop and take root; report impartially on the crimes and violations perpetrated by violent extremists, thereby helping to diminish their popular appeal; and bring a degree of accountability to the actions of law

enforcement and other security forces, thereby helping to prevent human rights violations that can be a driver of violent extremism.

Building off of complementary initiatives, such as the UN's current leadership in bridging the preventing and countering violent extremism and the Women, Peace, and Security agendas, and multilateral mechanisms designed to promote and protect the role of independent civil society, including human rights defenders, the international community should consider, *inter alia*:

- Supporting further analytic research and domestic programming on women's roles in preventing and countering violent extremism, including through partnerships between and among government, local or regional civil society and educational institutions, and the private sector.
- Working with stakeholders, including through the UN, Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe, *Hedayah*, GCERF, and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), to continue to develop good practices on integrating women and gender into responses to violent extremism and to develop good practices on the role of youth in addressing violent extremism.
- Designing and implementing programs to engage youth in civic education, community service and local peace building initiatives to help lessen susceptibility to recruitment and radicalization to violence.
- Designing and implementing programs to engage independent civil society organizations, including human rights organizations, in addressing violent extremism.
- Developing independent associations of victims of terrorism and violent extremism that represent, support, and empower victims and survivors.
- Strengthening independent civil society, including by ensuring that independent civil society organizations enjoy the basic freedoms of expression, assembly, and association that they need to maximize their contribution to efforts to prevent and counter violent extremism.
- Building the capacity of independent human rights defenders to hold security forces accountable and to report impartially on the crimes and violations committed by violent extremists.
- Developing or expanding economic empowerment and livelihood initiatives for youth susceptible to radicalization to violence; such efforts could include mentoring, access to capital, employment search support, and job-matching.
- Convening government officials with women and youth leaders in policy dialogues to develop and execute inclusive strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism among susceptible populations. For example, this could

involve the creation of local security and peace committees that include civil society organizations, women's groups, youth groups, market associations, and other relevant community representatives in order to enhance engagement between local communities and governments.

- Identifying and sharing successful models of inclusive strategies against violent extremism.
- Amplifying efforts of the many creative young people who are pushing back against extremist ideologies that are taking hold in their communities.
- Building cross- and/or sub-regional networks of youth leaders who are working in their own community to prevent and counter violent extremism; the network would facilitate the sharing of relevant experiences and best practices among young people, and support efforts to expand their impact in the CVE space.
- Building and strengthening cross- and/or sub-regional networks of civil society organizations, including those promoting the protection of human rights, to facilitate the sharing of experiences and best practices to expand contributions to preventing and countering violent extremism by advancing human rights.

Action Agenda Item 3: Strengthening Community-Police and Community-Security Force Relations as Ingredients for Countering and Preventing Violent Extremism

Security forces—including police and militaries—have the responsibility to provide security and protect the human rights of civilians. When security forces either fail to provide adequate services and protection, or actively violate these rights, they may create or fuel existing grievances, which could be exploited by violent extremists—whether through recruitment and radicalization or through creating the need for civilians to seek protection, justice, and dignity elsewhere. Grievances arising from perceived violations of human rights by security forces may be a driver of radicalization and recruitment. In fact, the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (September 2006) includes the lack of rule of law and violations of human rights as two of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. A lack of accountability for such abuses, a lack of access to justice for victims, a lack of due process for the accused, and corruption within the security sector also fuel community grievances that may become a factor pushing individuals towards violent extremism.

Thus, ensuring that security forces respect human rights, build strong relations with the communities they protect, and when needed, reorient their organizations to support community-oriented policing, may contribute to prevent the spread of violent extremism, thereby reducing the terrorist threat.

Building on relevant existing efforts, including those of the UN, Global Counterterrorism Forum, and relevant regional organizations, the international community should, *inter alia*, consider:

- Providing technical assistance to governments to improve institutional safeguards for prevention, independent oversight, and accountability for abuses by police and other security forces, including those engaged in counterterrorism activities.
- Ensuring that relevant capacity building efforts balance enhanced prosecutorial and investigative capacity with improvements in access to justice and respect for the rights of the accused.
- Ensuring that communities have a secure, trusted, accessible, and responsive mechanism for reporting on the conduct and misconduct of security forces.
- Facilitating open, regular and inclusive dialogue between at-risk communities and security forces to constructively address grievances and

- build trust. Platforms for dialogue might include regular community meetings, dialogue with key agents of change in communities, etc., and should include all sectors of society, women and youth.
- Developing national and regional border policies and practices that incorporate and engage with local border communities to maintain security, while emphasizing inclusion and empowerment of such communities.
 - Convening a multinational, multi-stakeholder, technical working group comprised of independent experts to systematically explore the relationship between security force-community relations and the prevalence of violent extremism. Through an examination of common practice, empirical research, case study, and through dialogue, the technical group would provide a set of principles and recommendations for practitioners, public officials, civil society, and the development community. This working group would meet independently within the next three months and, resources permitting, on the margins of selected follow-on regional CVE summits and other relevant events prior to UNGA 2015.
 - Expanding efforts to educate government officials and security sector practitioners regarding the negative impact of human rights violations on efforts to address violent extremism and national security more broadly and that enhanced respect for human rights will strengthen rather than weaken national security.
 - Tailoring police and security force trainings to emphasize and streamline respect for human rights and positive community engagement as part of a standard of professionalization, and undertaking monitoring and evaluation of these trainings to evaluate effectiveness.
 - Developing internal investigation units that review the security sector's enforcement activities and ensure they are in line with established law and procedures, including on the proper use of force.
 - Holding accountable security force officials that are found to be responsible for human rights abuses.
 - Building law enforcement skills to engage, build relationships, and work with communities at risk of radicalization.
 - Supporting law enforcement collaboration with religious, social service, education and youth ministries on CVE pilot initiatives and programming.
 - Enhancing law enforcement's ability to counter violent extremist messaging online and in traditional media.

Agenda Item 4: Promoting the Counter-narrative and Weakening the Legitimacy of Violent Extremist Messaging

The international community has recognized that violent extremist recruiters are combining new information technologies and platforms with traditional outreach to connect across borders enabling them to reach younger, more susceptible segments of society. Identifying and scaling up effective strategies and techniques to counter violent extremist messaging and narratives is therefore an essential element of a comprehensive strategy for addressing the violent extremist challenge.

Current counter-narrative messaging approaches and activities should be expanded and improved upon to ensure they are effective in dealing with the evolving violent extremism in areas of conflict and within susceptible populations. Greater emphasis should be put on community-level interventions that are responsive to the needs of specific vulnerable populations and the identification of new, credible and authentic partners in governments, the private sector, and civil society, including GCERF. Lessons learned should be shared so that scarce resources are effectively prioritized and results are measured. To further advance and sharpen our response to this critical challenge, the international community should consider, *inter alia*:

- Supporting credible, diverse local allies and potential partners to develop and disseminate their own counter-messages and alternative narratives, or to amplify existing ones; there are millions around the world who espouse tolerance, pluralism, and peaceful conflict resolution, and who could play roles in pushing back on violent extremist narratives.
- Institutionalizing and scaling up Internet and web-based engagement efforts to help credible religious, community, youth, and women leaders expose the negative aspects of terrorist organizations among key demographics that communicate and network in online spaces; these efforts could be linked with traditional media CVE efforts to create cross-platform campaigns.
- Expanding digital media strategies to more quickly and better counter violent extremist narratives through SMS or text-messaging to interactively engage with vulnerable youth who communicate through mobile networks, mobile apps, and social media communication tools, as well as popular local technologies.
- Engaging proactively with educational institutions that offer at risk-youth opportunities and provide critical-thinking skills and trainings as alternatives to violent extremist and radicalism.

- Encouraging local and regional media, civil society, and private sector partners to engage women and youth in devising effective counter-narrative campaigns, including through social media, radio and billboards.
- Engaging the entertainment industry to discuss how to support community efforts to counter the narratives of violent extremist groups and develop and distribute their own, positive narratives and encourage them to develop appropriate counter-narratives in mainstream entertainment, including dramas, reality shows, comedies, and public events.
- Engaging philanthropic foundations to identify how they could fund community-led initiatives that build resilience, provide opportunities, and counter terrorist narratives.
- Bringing together technology companies and related industry groups to address their role in addressing terrorists' use of digital media and social networking platforms.
- Developing and disseminating to communities at risk of being susceptible to violent extremist messaging and propaganda booklets that compile relevant verses from religious texts that are frequently misquoted by violent extremist groups and give them a non-violent translation and interpretation.
- Working through the Global Counterterrorism Forum's CVE Working Group and other relevant multilateral platforms to develop and disseminate CVE communications good practices.
- Expanding multilateral efforts to counter violent extremist messaging through better coordination among governments, civil society leaders, and private sector partners to promote joint messaging projects and programming.

Action Agenda Item 5: Promoting Educational Approaches to Build Resilience to Violent Extremism

Educators exert considerable influence by shaping the views and skills of the next generation, as well as helping to set society's broader norms. UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (September 2014), urges governments to adopt comprehensive approaches to countering violent extremism – including “empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders” and highlighting “the role education can play in countering terrorist narratives.” Education and youth-based approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism draw on established areas of education – such as civic education, critical thinking and life skills – and adapt these practices for these objectives.

In recent years, a number of countries have implemented education-based reforms to improve overall pedagogy and learning, as well as the specific goal of building children and youth’s resilience to violent-extremist ideas and ideology.

Multilaterally, we also have made some progress. The GCTF’s Ankara Memorandum, for example, underscores the importance of developing a multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the violent extremist challenge. It emphasizes the need to work across sectors and highlights the important role of education in this effort. The GCTF's Abu Dhabi Memorandum captures specific good practices on the role of education in CVE. At the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly, the OIC-sponsored resolution on combating intolerance, also known as Resolution 16/18, calls for, among other things, the creation of collaborative networks for constructive action on education and conflict prevention. It calls specifically for a “global dialogue for the promotion of a culture of tolerance and peace at all levels, based on respect for human rights and diversity of religions and beliefs.”

Building on these and other efforts, the international community should consider, *inter alia*:

- Providing technical assistance to governments interested in developing education and youth-based strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism.
- Strengthening government and civil society cognizance of the deleterious effects of intolerance and the benefits of inter-communal collaboration and mutual support on countering violent extremism and conflict prevention.

- Designing and implementing pilot programs drawing on civic education, critical thinking, life skills and other education approaches to prevent and counter violent extremism.
- Training youth to serve as positive mentors to their peer school groups in geographic areas of radicalization and recruitment into violent extremism.
- Supporting teachers, victims/survivors of terrorism and former violent extremists to collaborate on radicalization awareness and prevention efforts in schools, youth groups and similar settings; this could include sharing information to better understand how violent extremists radicalize and recruit.
- Working with universities to develop curricula and implement training programs for teachers, religious leaders and youth leaders in approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism; universities can serve as institutions where such efforts can be sustained over time.
- Supporting efforts to highlight scholarship, education, and career opportunities as clear alternatives to violent extremist ideas and narratives.
- Working with families and social networks to promote respect for the larger community as an enabler of societal harmony and stability.
- Coordinating and developing high quality educational materials promoting pluralism that advances international standards on human rights.
- Gathering information on the different ongoing and planned programs and initiatives aimed at empowering and amplifying nonviolent religious voices and making this information more widely accessible.

Action Agenda Item 6: Enhancing Access to Mainstream Religious Knowledge

Radical groups and movements frequently take advantage of the fact that those they target for recruitment and indoctrination often have little to no grounding in mainstream religious knowledge. They are therefore able to convince impressionable young people that their highly unconventional interpretations of religious teachings are valid. With respect to the Islamic tradition, for example, all major schools of thought embrace principles and ethics that are sharply at odds with the intolerance and violence associated with extremism. However, mainstream Islamic education often does not reach many young people, particularly in those settings where religious institutions are underdeveloped or mostly absent (e.g. Europe, Central Asia). Even in places where centuries-old institutions of religious education are present, they often fail to reach critical mass due to an inability to articulate their messages in ways that are attractive to young people. As President Obama summarized the problem in his remarks at the CVE Summit: “To the older people here, as wise and respected as you may be, your stuff is often boring.” Increasingly today, young men and women do not learn about their religion from traditional sources such as clerics or religious institutions and scholars. Rather they tune into a myriad of voices available through social media, short videos, and online courses. There is therefore a need to increase the availability and appeal of classical religious learning in order to counteract the distortions, decontextualized sound-bites, and extremist interpretations circulating at the hands of radical groups.

This work-stream will focus particular attention on the role of civil society organizations, academic institutions, foundations, and other non-governmental groups to significantly raise the profile and presence of voices that represent mainstream religious knowledge.

Among the areas of focus of this work-stream will be:

- Providing media training to mainstream religious scholars and associated educational/outreach institutions, including social media and other online platforms. The goal here is to help purveyors of non-violence and tolerance to compete more effectively in the crowded online marketplace of ideas.
- Building the capacity in institutions of religious higher education: through exchange programs, distance learning initiatives and other forms of international partnership, provide the technical assistance and resources that

institutions of mainstream religious learning require to compete effectively and attract students.

- Encourage states to provide security for proponents of peace and tolerance. This should be matched with justice and accountability for those who seek to silence constructive voices through intimidation and violence.
- Preserving the heritage of cultural and religious diversity. In settings such as Afghanistan, Mali, Yemen, and Iraq, violent extremist groups have sought to destroy manuscripts and religious sites that embody legacies of pluralism and tolerance. By actively working to preserve this heritage, we preserve the cultural infrastructure of diversity and tolerance. This line of effort will bring together philanthropic organizations, archaeologists, and historians to establish mechanisms for responding to acts of destruction against cultural sites committed by extremist groups.

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Action Agenda Item 7: Preventing Radicalization in Prisons and Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Violent Extremists

UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (September 2014), urges governments to adopt comprehensive approaches to countering violent extremism – encouraging them to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF), where possible and appropriate. With many of the thousands of FTFs participating in the conflicts in Iraq and Syria potentially returning home in the years ahead, this charge to broaden our collective efforts beyond military, law enforcement, and intelligence approaches is timely and essential, as many returning FTFs will not be able to be prosecuted. Of note are also fighters who are disengaging from conflicts in East and West Africa and the Sahel or who disengaged from conflicts in Colombia and Northern Ireland; their successful reintegration into their communities is vital to enhancing peace and security in the relevant region. There is also growing recognition of the need for rehabilitation and reintegration programs for incarcerated violent extremists, many of whom will be released in the next several years. It is also well understood that many prisons serve as hotbeds of radicalization – and that steps need to be taken to address this phenomenon.

The international community has made some progress on these issues in recent years. Multilateral bodies, in particular the UN Inter-Regional Crime Research Institute (UNICRI), the GCTF and, increasingly, governments and civil society are engaged. Communities and governments are testing innovative approaches, including “diversion” programming that intervenes with at-risk individuals before they commit potentially criminal acts. Recognizing that it will not be feasible to prosecute every returning FTF, governments are also developing capabilities to reintegrate FTF into broader society, drawing in part from good practices articulated in GCTF’s [Rome Memorandum](#). In mid-2014, Australia and Indonesia launched the GCTF Detention and Reintegration Working Group, while the UN and GCTF jointly launched a work-stream at Rome in late 2014 to explore, develop and test new approaches to reintegration of those who are never incarcerated, as well as, in many instances, their family members. Lessons may potentially also be drawn from experiences with post-conflict disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programs.

There are a number of concrete other steps that the international community and governments should consider, *inter alia*:

- Developing domestic programs designed to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist offenders.

- Developing domestic programs designed to facilitate the reintegration of returning FTFs and their families – in accordance with UNSCR 2178 – and sharing data and lessons learned.
- Sponsoring regional workshops to explore reintegration good practices, drawing on the resources of the full range of governments, as well as civil society, and mapping a way forward.
- Drawing upon successful approaches to raising awareness of the need to rehabilitate and reintegrate violent extremist offenders in order to sensitize stakeholders to their potentially key roles in reintegrating FTFs, perhaps in coordination with *Hedayah*, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule Law, and/or the Against Violent Extremism (AVE) network (the largest network of former extremists in the world).
- Supporting the expansion of the platform, hosted by AVE, that would connect disillusioned FTFs willingness to share their stories with communities vulnerable to violent extremist messages.
- Gaining a better understanding of why formers disengage, which is a key element of building more effective exit and other reintegration programs.
- Providing technical assistance to governments expressing a desire to develop effective rehabilitation and reintegration programming.
- Sponsoring, whether domestically or as part of capacity-building assistance to another government, programs designed to help FTFs exit terrorist groups.
- Contributing good practices and lessons learned developed at the national level, as well as relevant research, to regional and global workshops.

Action Agenda Item 8: Identifying Political and Economic Opportunities for Communities Vulnerable to Radicalization and Recruitment to Violent Extremism

Political and economic factors can leave certain communities or individuals susceptible to radicalization and recruitment by violent extremists, who in turn often leverage these factors in their efforts. When such groups are economically or socially marginalized, suffer from poor governance, or are denied basic services, the resulting grievances may leave them susceptible to radicalizing and recruiting narratives.

Violent extremist organizations (VEOs) can move in to fill the void—providing services, governance, and, importantly, a sense of belonging, dignity, and identity. VEOs use economic incentives to help recruit unemployed or underemployed individuals from poor and marginalized areas. In addition, VEOs often offer the promise of a political voice to those individuals who feel excluded from formal political processes or face structural discrimination. Yet, poverty, unemployment, political marginalization, and discrimination alone do not necessarily lead to recruitment and radicalization. Other push and pull factors often accompany political and economic drivers to make communities more vulnerable to radical narratives.

Economic and political drivers are context-specific, and vary within and among communities, countries and regions. These drivers can include: limited employment opportunities, lack of access to educational systems, or lack of representation in government. Political and economic drivers may be issues amenable to local solutions, such as increasing input into local decision-making, or expanding the job market, or they may require a more systemic solution, like responding to rampant corruption, ineffective market regulation, lack of government capacity, or a lack of social protection and insufficient educational standards.

To provide appropriate political and economic opportunities that can prevent or counter violent extremism in vulnerable communities, a focused approach must be used. This requires leveraging available research, current best practices, and on-the-ground knowledge to feed into the design of appropriate programming. In addition, pilot interventions can be used to test assumptions and learn lessons on effective opportunities to stem recruitment and radicalization.

With the above in mind, the international community should consider, *inter alia*:

- Providing financial or in-kind contributions to mechanisms like GCERF that support indigenous civil society organizations implementing locally-relevant political and economic activities designed to address the drivers of radicalization and recruitment.
- Supporting partners working with at-risk communities to develop approaches to mitigate political and economic drivers tailored to their communities.
- Encouraging partners to consider implications of political and economic policies on the violent extremist phenomena and explore ways to mitigate their negative implications in ways that address these drivers. This might include revising discriminatory laws, policies and practices in order to increase political, economic, and social inclusion of marginalized groups at risk of radicalization and recruitment
- Encouraging partners to focus on equitable service provision.
- Conducting and sharing evaluations of political and economic interventions to refine approaches to ensure these drivers are being addressed.
- Piloting technical and vocational education and training, job matching, and other jobs programming and initiatives that specifically target populations at risk of radicalization and recruitment, including strategies for engaging local business communities, for example in easing school-to-work transitions.
- Encouraging governments to offer skills training and job opportunities to disengaged or disengaging fighters and former violent extremists released from prisons who are a vulnerable population.
- Developing public messaging that accounts for popular political, economic, and social grievances and is solution oriented.
- Supporting local entrepreneurship initiatives that could focus on providing training in basic entrepreneurship knowledge and skills, including in business administration and management, which could improve the livelihoods of communities while strengthening their sense of empowerment and management.

Draft Action Agenda Item 9: Development Assistance and Stabilization Efforts to Prevent and Counter Violent Extremism

International development donors provide considerable assistance to countries suffering from or witnessing the emergence of violent extremism. This assistance is often in sectors broadly relevant to preventing or countering violent extremism, but is not typically directed to mitigating the specific drivers of or focusing on specific populations or communities susceptible to radicalization and recruitment to violent extremism.

At the same time, development's role in supporting international peace and security is widely recognized. The World Bank's World Development Report 2011 emphasized the critical importance of development – supporting access to justice, economic opportunity, service delivery and domestic revenue generation – in consolidating peace and enabling recovery. Fragile, poorly governed, and conflict-affected environments generate conditions favorable to radicalization to violence. There is a growing overlap between conflict- and violent extremism-affected countries. Importantly, many development-based tools are relevant to analyzing and addressing multiple drivers of violent extremism. Yet, while development agencies support conflict prevention and mitigation, peacebuilding, and resilience that ameliorate these broad conditions, their efforts have been insufficient in addressing specific drivers of violent extremism, particularly in demographic and geographic areas affected by violent extremism. Engaging development agencies, better understanding their roles in CVE, and working with them in focused ways is critical to effectively addressing the phenomenon. This is evidenced in the complementarities between international development principles and approaches and international CVE good practices, including those developed by the GCTF.

Thus, the international community should consider *inter alia*:

- Adapting counterterrorism and broader national security strategies to incorporate development-based, prevention-oriented approaches strategically focused on addressing the drivers of violent extremism.
- Encouraging international development entities within donor governments to contribute to or otherwise support GCERF, *Hedayah* and other multilateral efforts focused on preventing and countering violent extremism.
- Including explicit language in the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda acknowledging the linkage between tackling the local drivers of violence and preventing and countering violent extremism.

- Organizing technical exchanges among the international development entities of donor governments, as well as multilateral development organizations, interested in tailoring specific development assistance initiatives and programs to address the drivers of violent extremism.
- Organizing international development and CVE workshops within an existing multilateral forum, such as the GCTF's CVE Working Group or the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development's Development Assistance Committee, to elaborate an action plan under which interested international development entities could tailor existing - and design new development assistance initiatives and programs aimed at addressing violent extremism.
- Creating a longer-term international development work-stream within the GCTF's CVE Working Group which would include donor governments and recipients of international development assistance. It would also include relevant development-based NGOs in its activities.