

**DRAFT CO-CHAIR'S SUMMARY REPORT
OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL
FORUM (ARF) WORKSHOP ON "MAINSTREAMING THE
PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE ARF REGION"**
15 -16 February 2017 - Brussels, Belgium.

Introduction

The "Workshop on Mainstreaming the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the ARF Region" took place in Brussels, Belgium, from 15 to 16 February 2017. The event was jointly organized by the Governments of the Philippines and Australia, and the European Union. The workshop gathered over 100 delegates from ARF Member States, as well as representatives from international, regional and civil society organizations. The list of participants is hereby attached as Annex I.

The workshop was aimed at taking stock of relevant P/CVE initiatives in the concerned regions, shared lessons learned and good practices, and identify areas for possible cooperation in support of the "ARF Work Plan on Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime", which specifically identifies CVE as one of its four priority areas. Particular focus was put on the role of youth in P/CVE initiatives; de-radicalization, reintegration and rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders; implementation of P/CVE policy frameworks at the regional and national level; and the importance of strategic communications in P/CVE efforts. The programme of the workshop is hereby attached as Annex II.

Opening Session

The opening session was co-chaired by Mr. Gunnar Wiegand, Managing Director for Asia and the Pacific at the European External Action Service and EU SOM Leader; HE. Mr. Paul Foley, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Australia; and Attorney Roy Ecraela, Special Assistant at the Department of Foreign Affairs, the Philippines. During their opening remarks, the three officials coincided on the need for a more concerted approach to P/CVE in light of the transnational nature of the threat, acknowledging the workshop as both timely and relevant in that regard,

and reiterating their commitment for a continued partnership on P/CVE issues in the framework of the ARF.

Keynote Address

After the opening session a keynote speech was delivered by Mr. Gilles de Kerchove, EU Counter Terrorism Coordinator. Mr. de Kerchove highlighted some aspects of the EU policy response to the prevention of terrorism and violent extremism, reflecting on some of the most pressing challenges that the international community faces on that front, such as the effective use of information and communication technologies (ICT) by terrorist organizations and individuals; the management of foreign terrorist fighters returnees; and the increased risk of terrorist attacks arising from the decline of the so-called Islamic State or Daesh. Mr. de Kerchove stressed the need for a more effective criminal justice response to terrorism, and made a call for the EU to continue strengthening its engagement with its external partners, while emphasizing the need to improve the way in which the phenomenon of violent extremism is understood.

Session I: Prevention of violent extremism in selected ARF states (focus on youth)

This session was aimed at showcasing specific community-focused PVE initiatives, preferably led by the youth. The segment was moderated by Mr. Jesper Pedersen, Head of Sector at the Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation of the European Commission, who emphasized that P/CVE is a high priority for the EU and stressed the need to work more with the youth in said areas.

By way of introduction, Ms. Thanawan Klumklomchit, National Programme Officer, United Nations of Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Regional Office, Thailand, highlighted the increased involvement of the youth in violent conflicts around the world. She then presented UNODC's work on P/CVE, particularly in the area of criminal justice and in prison settings, introducing some of the technical tools that the organization has developed to help its member states address the issue.

Ms. Arizza Nocum, a representative from the Kofi Annan's "Extremely Together" action, presented the "KRIS (Kristiano Islam) Library" project, a non-for-profit initiative that she leads in the Philippines, aimed at building and maintaining needs-based libraries that will serve as accessible, neutral spaces conducive for education and social consciousness, offering programmes that will ensure young people access to education with a focus on leadership and personal formation.

Mr. Thomas Koruth Samuel, Director of the Strategic Communications Divisions at the South East Asia Regional Center for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), Malaysia, referred to the key role of strategic communications in P/CVE, stressing the need to focus not only on the message but also on the messenger, by engaging and training credible voices, relying on social media, and developing adequate evaluation mechanisms to measure the impact of programmes.

Finally, Ms. Sophie Duroy, from the International Juvenile Justice Observatory (IJJO), addressed the distinction between primary, secondary and tertiary approaches for the prevention of radicalization and violent extremism, followed by a presentation of successful initiatives illustrating interventions at each level, such as "Teachers against Violent Extremism" (Kenya), "The Bahira Advice Centre" (Germany) and "Exit" (Norway), respectively.

The session continued with an open discussion amongst participants, and finalized with a summary of the main points covered provided by the moderator. These points were captured in the document entitled "Workshop Takeaways" hereby attached as Annex III.

Session II: De-radicalization, rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremists (focus on prisons)

This session was aimed at presenting existing policies and programs focusing on de-radicalization and rehabilitation of violent extremist offenders (VEOs) in prison settings, and how said initiatives interplay with broader prison management

efforts. The panel was moderated by Mr. James Nachipo, Director for Counter-terrorism, Asia Pacific and Multilateral, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia.

The first panelist, Mr. Eelco Kessels, Global Center on Cooperative Security, introduced a series of good practices in various prison domains, namely: i) practices in the daily administration, routines, and activities of a prison that impact the management of VEOs; ii) practices preventing violent extremism, radicalization, and recruitment from undermining prison security; iii) practices in the effective and appropriate assessment of VEOs; iv) practices in implementing planned activities to prevent or reduce radicalization and recruitment; and v) practices to prepare VEOs for successful resettlement and reintegration into the society.

Mr. Jack Burger, Program Manager, Ministry of Justice, The Netherlands, referred to the Dutch approach to the management of VEOs, which is based on the principles of concentration and isolation in order to prevent the spread of radical ideologies among the prisons' general population, and explained the different programs available in The Netherlands for the rehabilitation of VEOs, such as the training "Choose for Change" or more individually-tailored programmes based on rigorous assessment of the prisoners' readiness and behaviors.

Ms. Michel Bonto, Corrections Officer at Camp Bagwang Diwa, The Philippines, presented several initiatives targeting VEOs at high-security prison facilities in The Philippines. She said initiatives are ultimately aimed at building trust and winning the hearts and minds of the inmates, a goal that is pursued by addressing, to the wider possible extent, the multiple factors affecting their behavior, as well as through sports, education and positive engagement.

Mr. Ramzi Elsayed, Islamic Council of Victoria, Australia, resorted to a real case study of a convicted violent extremist offender to illustrate the de-radicalization process of VEOs from a practitioners' perspective, highlighting the importance of education and positive engagement in rehabilitation and reintegration programmes, stressing that there is no "one-size-fits-all" model for

P/CVE and that management strategies must be tailored to individual and local circumstances.

The session finalized with a summary of the main issues addressed provided by the moderator, which were also included in the "Workshop Takeaways" hereby attached as Annex III.

Session III: Regional and national implementation of international P/CVE policy frameworks - Opportunities and challenges

This session aimed at exploring strategies and efforts being carried out at the regional and national levels towards the implementation of the international P/CVE policy framework, in particular the United Nations Secretary General's (UNSG) Plan of Action (PoA) on PVE, and the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250. The session was moderated by Ms. Anna Sherburn, Director, Countering Violent Extremism Centre, Attorney General's Department, Australia.

Mr. Alexander Zuev, Special Adviser to the UNSG on PVE, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), referred to the efforts being carried out within the UN system to help member states implement the UNSG PoA on PVE, and shared some lessons learned from the PVE Global Programme. These included: the need for national action plans to be context-specific, adaptable and based on thorough analysis of root causes and drivers; the importance of building trust between governments and at-risk communities; the need for a multi-disciplinary approach going beyond law enforcement; the importance of including women and the youth as partners in P/CVE design and programming; the need for clear and accountable government PVE structures of a multi-disciplinary nature; and for periodical review mechanisms of PVE national action plans.

Mr. Dato' Muhamad Sade Bin Mohamad Amin, Undersecretary, Security and Public Order Division, Ministry of Home Affairs of Malaysia, referred to his government's efforts in the PVE domain and some of the challenges thereof, addressing the new Malaysian PVE policy framework which focuses on key areas such as strategic communications; education, skill development and employment

facilitation; gender equality and empowering women; empowering and engaging the youth; good governance, human rights and law enforcement; and fostering dialogue and conflict prevention.

Ms. Kathryn Porter, Global Affairs, Canada, offered an overview of Canada's recent incidents involving violent extremism, and explained the various measures that her government has undertaken to address the threat, including, but not limited to, the development of a "Center of Excellence" to provide community support.

Lieutenant Colonel Erin Whitney, US Special Operations Command in the Pacific, shared information and best practices arising from the "Countering Violent Extremism Working Group", a US Pacific Command-funded initiative that brings together individuals conducting CVE activities throughout the Indo-Pacific Region. The goal of the annual CVE Working Group is to develop a network of CVE practitioners who further their capabilities through the sharing of best practices and current CVE trends.

Following the panel's intervention, an open discussion took place during which the delegations of Russia, Indonesia, Myanmar, South Korea and China took the floor to present a summary of their respective governments' actions to address violent extremism. The session concluded with a summary of the main issues addressed provided by the moderator, also comprised in the workshop takeaways hereby attached as Annex III.

Session IV: Successful communication of counter-narratives and combating terrorist propaganda on the Internet

This session addressed the design and implementation of successful counter-narratives and positive narratives initiatives relying on the use of ICT, focusing on issues like engagement with the youth and the private sector (marketing and social-media companies); ensuring adequate privacy and human rights safeguards; and monitoring and evaluating results. The session was moderated by Mr. Roque Morales, Commissioner of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, The Philippines.

The first panelist, Mr. Shaukat Warraich, presented the UK-based initiative called "Imams online", an online platform aimed at gathering Islamic voices in a collaborative approach to counter negative perceptions (Islamophobia) and tackle Daesh's message. He underscored the importance of developing engagement strategies relying on digital and social media, and engaging with credible voices, promoting active citizenship and institutional building.

Mr. Dan Chugg, from the UK Foreign Office, introduced the "Counter-Daesh Communications Cells", an initiative developed in the framework of the anti-Daesh coalition, aimed at degrading the Daesh brand, undermine their narrative and build resilience to their propaganda by reinforcing Daesh failures. Among other things, Mr. Chugg highlighted the need to involve the private sector through the concept of corporate social responsibility, benefiting from its expertise and financial resources.

Mr. Timur Abregov, Senior Prosecutor, General Prosecutor's Office, Russian Federation, introduced his country's experience in CVE, emphasizing the strong partnership between practitioners and the different branches of the government, addressing the need to counter the use of the internet for terrorist purposes and to have a unified system of communication networks to allow for the proper monitoring of VEOs. In February 2014 the amendments to the Federal Law "On information, information technologies and protection of information" were adopted which allow Prosecutor Generals Office to block without court decision (within 24 hours) the access to the sites containing public appeals for terrorism and extremism. He also explained that under the above Federal Law every citizen or organization has the right to inform the authorities on findings of terrorist materials and other unlawful manifestations on the Internet. Authorities, non-governmental organizations and public at large are involved in this work, and this creates conditions for effective protection of cyberspace against terrorism and its propaganda. In order to protect the right of citizens to receive and distribute

information the Federal Law # 149 makes provisions for resumption of access to blocked sites.

Lt. Col. Stephen Cabanlet, The Philippines Marine Corps, presented the programme called "Football for Peace", a mentorship and development initiative originally developed by the Navy and later on adopted by other government agencies, aimed at fostering social inclusion through sports for children in conflict areas in The Philippines.

The session finalized with a summary provided by the moderator of the main issues addressed, included in the workshop's takeaways attached as Annex III.

Session V: Panel discussion and questions and answers: Lessons learned and opportunities and challenges for joint future action

This final session looked at P/CVE from a security perspective, with the phenomenon of foreign fighter returnees as the main driver of the current terrorist threat in both the EU and the ARF region, and focusing on the challenges related to combining the "soft" and "hard" approaches to P/CVE. The session was moderated by Mr. John Gatt-Rutter, Head of the European External Action Service (EEAS) Counter-Terrorism Division.

Mr. Gilles de Kerchove, the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, put emphasis on the need to enhance the sharing of more contextual information from the battlefield about the individual returnee, for which a stronger and more concrete cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence agencies, as well as between countries, is still required. He also stressed the need to focus more on ways to streamline the access to digital data while respecting human rights and the rule of law, as a vital source of information on terrorist groups and individuals; and to refine the methodology utilized for the implementation of rehabilitation mechanisms.

Ms. Anna Sherburn, Director, Countering Violent Extremism Centre, Attorney General's Department, Australia, referred to the tensions between the so-called soft and hard measures on P/CVE, highlighting the need for a careful and

balanced approach. With regards to the management of foreign fighters returnees, bearing in mind the complex and multi-disciplinary nature of the task at hand, she vowed for an inclusive approach comprising think-thanks, civil society and other organizations to work in cooperation.

Next, Mr. Roque Morales, Commissioner of the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, The Philippines, reflected that the biggest challenge on CT and P/CVE to date remains perhaps the need for faster and more effective information sharing between all concerned actors.

Following the panel discussion, the organizers presented to the participants a draft document compiling their summary of the workshop's main takeaways, hereby attached as Annex III

As a follow-up, the EU host also provided a link to all speakers and participants for access to a number of relevant documents, photos and presentations: Workshop on Mainstreaming the Prevention of Violent Extremism in the ARF Region .