



Concept Note

Workshop on Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism Online

1. Background

Eliminating terrorism and violent extremist content online is an important issue facing the region and the world. The harm caused by violent extremist content was once again highlighted during the terrorist attack of 15 March in Christchurch, New Zealand – the first terror attack that was designed to go viral.

Regional organisations can play an important leadership role in countering violent extremism. This is illustrated by the fact that ARF members have identified preventing and countering violent extremism as a priority work area for the Work Plan for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2021 and are looking to adopt a statement on countering violent extremism in the 2018-19 intersessional year.

Looking forward to the 2019-20 intersessional year, New Zealand proposes co-hosting an ARF workshop on countering violent extremism online. This workshop aligns with Priority Area #3 of the draft Work Plan for Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime 2019-2021, which New Zealand has expressed its interest in co-leading, as well as the draft ARF Statement on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism. That draft statement envisages putting in place strategies to counter the violent extremist narrative that can incite recruitment to terrorist groups and the commission of terrorist acts and identifies the need to address the conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism as and when conducive to terrorism.

An initial draft concept is outlined below and we welcome suggestions from ARF members. New Zealand would also welcome expressions of interest from ARF members who may wish to co-support such a workshop.

2. Workshop description

As anticipated in the draft Priority Area #3, this workshop could explore the steps ARF attendees may take to counter the spread of violent extremism through various online channels such as the internet and social media. ARF multi-stakeholder attendees would be encouraged to exchange experiences, lessons learned and best practices in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism in their countries that is fomented online.

The workshop would enable the ARF to explore opportunities to strengthen existing coordination in preventing and responding to violent extremism online, and be forward looking in exploring potential practical measures to eliminate violent extremist content online. New Zealand is considering options on the format, content and timing of the workshop.

3. Proposal

New Zealand proposes a one-off workshop during the 2019-20 intersessional year that would build on the ARF statement on countering terrorism and violent extremism by enabling the ASEAN Regional Forum to enhance understanding of and capacity to respond to the use of online channels to promote violent extremism.

This effort would comprise the following components:

- I. A workshop exploring ARF participants' experiences, lessons learned and best practices;
- II. A table top exercise that allows for the application of key principles in the context of a regionally relevant case; and
- III. The development of a list of actions that ARF participating countries can take to counter the use of online media to spread violent extremism.

4. Co-Chairs

New Zealand is actively seeking an ASEAN co-chair for this workshop.

5. Date and venue

New Zealand is actively seeking an ASEAN co-chair for this workshop.

6. Contact information

Any comments or questions may be directed to following contact:

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