

JAKARTA DECLARATION ON “VIOLENT EXTREMISM & RELIGIOUS EDUCATION”

JAKARTA, 13 DECEMBER 2017

We, the representatives of governments, civil society organizations, community based organizations, faith based organizations, and academic institutions from various countries in Southeast Asia and beyond;

Reaffirming that violent extremism has multi dimensions and religion is only one part of them;

Recalling the document of Secretary General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism that underlines seven priorities areas to take action, including: (1) dialogue and conflict prevention; (2) strengthening good governance, human rights and rule of law; (3) engaging communities; (4) empowering youth; (5) gender equality and empowering women; (6) education, skills development and employment facilitation; and (7) strategic communications, the internet and social media;

Highlighting that religion, particularly religious education, has untapped potential and resources for resolving violent extremism;

Acknowledging that while there are different contexts and changing dynamics across geographical lines and time frames, there is interconnection and shared concerns on the issue of violent extremism and religious education;

Hereby declare that following actions are necessary:

1. To denounce any acts of violence in its various forms, including in the name of religion;
2. To advocate governments to regulate policy of religious education, that nurtures tolerant and inclusive attitude including toward minorities;
3. To strengthen engagement with communities and assist them to be more resilient in preventing violent extremism and building social cohesion;
4. To intensify inter- and intra-faith dialogue and engagement as an indispensable part of religious education;
5. To promote religious literacy, particularly among religious leaders and religious education teachers;
6. To support parents and caregivers to increase their skills in developing a holistic development of children, including their spiritual and psycho-social development;
7. To mainstream gender equality in religious education;
8. To empower youth to be agent of change in preventing violent extremism, particularly toward their peers;
9. To encourage everyone to be more proactive in voicing peaceful messages, including through internet and social media;
10. To build a network of religious education for preventing violent extremism that can be a platform for sharing lessons learnt and exchanging best practices.