



How UNDP can help to prevent violent extremism

Message from Patrick Keuleers, Chief of Profession



I am very pleased to share with you all this special edition on UNDP's work on preventing violent extremism (PVE). Since the beginning of the year, we have organised a series of events that are truly shaping our corporate, regional and country level responses to the challenges of violent extremism.

In March we organised a global meeting in Oslo on "Preventing Violent Extremism by Promoting Inclusive Development, Tolerance and Respect for Diversity". The meeting brought together UNDP colleagues from all regional hubs, resident coordinators, government representatives, development partners, civil society and think tanks to discuss our corporate approach on the subject. The global meeting was part of the Peacebuilding Dialogue Series hosted by the Oslo Governance Center. The meeting endorsed UNDP's [corporate framing paper](#) and lauded UNDP for its approach of looking at the rise of violent extremism and the governance of diversity and multi-cultural societies as two distinct yet inter-related challenges.

The meeting's conclusions acknowledged that socio-economic development alone is an insufficient response to violent extremism: issues around the politics of identity, horizontal inequalities and perceptions of social injustice are also at the heart of the problems we are seeing across the regions and across the globe. [A recently released report](#) sums up the key points from the meeting. All these ideas contained have now also been translated into a global

project on “Development solutions for the prevention of violent extremism” and a global programme coordinator and special advisor on PVE, co-sponsored by BPPS and the regional bureaux, has been assigned to BPPS to ensure corporate-wide coordination, partnership development and resource mobilization to support UNDP’s global, regional and country level PVE initiatives.

Furthermore, UNDP’s *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace* ([Youth-GPS](#), 2016-2020), in partnership with the Oslo Governance Centre, will carry out starting September 2016 an innovative research project highlighting youth-led solutions to PVE.

Work at the regional level is also advancing:

- Our colleagues in Addis are progressing with the implementation of the [Regional project on Preventing Violent extremisms in Africa](#) and are conducting surveys to better understand the pull factors, gender dimensions, economic impact and cross-border dynamics of violent extremism.
- End of May, colleagues in Amman organised a first workshop to discuss a regional approach to violent extremism in the Arab States based on needs articulated by UNDP country offices.
- In June, the Regional Hub in Istanbul together with the UNDP country office in Tajikistan organised a high level experts’ meeting in Dushanbe on finding “Development Solutions for the Prevention of Violent Extremism”.
- Colleagues in the Regional Hub in Bangkok are launching country case studies to gain a better understanding of violent extremism and explore programming options. A regional meeting is planned for end of November, in collaboration with other partners involved in capacity building and research to prevent violent extremism.

While UNDP fully recognizes the importance of security-related interventions to prevent violent extremism, its scope and comparative advantage for positive intervention in this area lies in its development practice and experience, social cohesion programming and peacebuilding and conflict prevention capacities.

Finally, this news update also provides useful information on resources, tools and publications related to the prevention of violent extremism.

Announcing the appointment of Alexander Zuev, Global Programme manager and special advisor on PVE

As of the 1 July 2016, **Alexander Zuev** (Russia) joined BPPS as the Global Programme Manager and Special Advisor on Prevention of Violent Extremism in BPPS, New York. This new position was created and funded jointly by BPPS and four Regional Bureaux (RBA, RBAP, RBAS and



RBEC), in light of the increasing importance of PVE. In this capacity, Alexander will work within BPPS and in close cooperation with the Regional Bureaux to ensure corporate-wide coordination, partnership development and resource mobilization to support UNDP's global, regional and country level efforts to identify, approach and promote development solutions to prevent violent extremism. Given the nature of UNDP's work on preventing violent extremism, Alexander's work will be closely linked to the BPPS Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster.

Alexander joined UNICEF in 1990 as the Socio-Economic Research Officer at the UNICEF Headquarters in New York. From 1997 he was the Senior Programme Officer for the Central and Eastern Europe, Commonwealth of Independent States and the Baltic States Section. From 1997 to 2003 he was the UNICEF Chief of CEE/CIS and the Baltics Desk. From 2003 to 2004 he was the UNOPS Principal Advisor to the Executive Director in New York. In 2004 he was appointed as the Senior DGO Coordinator for the Interagency Needs Assessment in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. From 2004 until 2008 he was the UNICEF Representative for Kazakhstan. From 2008 until 2011 he served in the UNICEF Headquarters as the Head of Office of UN and Intergovernmental Affairs (UNIA) Office and the Deputy Director for Governance, UN and Multilateral Affairs Division, in New York.

In 2011, Alexander became the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative for the Republic of Tajikistan. During his tenure as RC/RR in Tajikistan, he was closely involved in the discussions on PVE programming in the country and in the sub-region. He initiated the first regional workshop on PVE in the Europe and Central Asia region which was held in Tajikistan (Dushanbe, 13-15 June 2016) and co-led the development of the first globally and very innovative cross-border (Tajik-Kyrgyz) conflict prevention programme.

**- FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR,
OSLO GOVERNANCE CENTRE -**



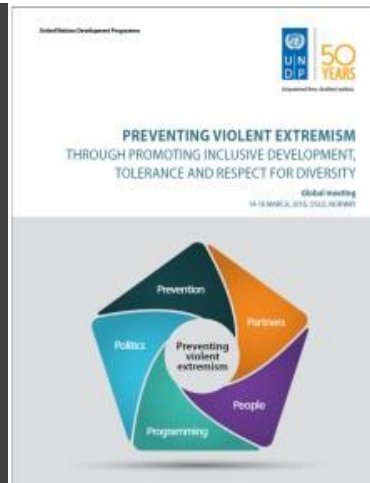
The global meeting on preventing violent extremism and promoting inclusive development, tolerance and diversity, hosted by the Oslo Governance Centre (OGC), brought together close to 140 participants from diverse backgrounds working in 47 countries. They included representatives from governments; development agencies; civil society including youth organizations and women's networks; academia; media; law enforcement and security communities to share and discuss experiences, lessons learned and approaches related to the prevention of violent extremism. We enjoyed three days of energetic discussion, debate and learning and you can see the main presentations on

[OGC's YouTube channel.](#)

Two major themes were addressed throughout the global meeting: the governance of diversity and inclusion; and the rise of violent extremism and its spread across national borders. It was opened by Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, together with the State Secretary of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tore Hattrem, and a young Pakistani human rights leader, Gulalai Ismail.

As the Director of the OGC, I am very pleased with the positive outcome of this event and the focus it has brought to the issue of preventing violent extremism. One of the issues highlighted during the meeting was the need for rigorous, locally-rooted research. OGC is now working with internal and external partners in this critical area. As part of this effort, we are collating research resources, which we can share with you via a Dropbox. For access please contact [Aseem Andrews](#).

- MESSAGES AND INSIGHTS FROM OSLO -



Click on the image to see the full report from the UNDP Oslo Global Meeting on PVE. Key messages can be found on pages 6 and 7 of the report.



Key messages from the UNDP Oslo Global Meeting on PVE:

- Since political decisions and developments at the global, national and local levels are key drivers of violent extremism, efforts to prevent it must acknowledge the **primacy of politics**.
- A prevention agenda must focus on understanding and addressing **the root causes of violent extremism**.
- Application of the **"do no harm"** principles to PVE interventions is important as "getting it wrong" can mean aggravating the problem rather than solving it.

- Changes in narrative - from anti-terrorism to countering violent extremism to preventing violent extremism - relates not merely to nomenclature but should indicate a **genuine shift in approaches**.
- Responding to the multifaceted sources and causes of violent extremism, requires **comprehensive and sustained partnerships** with - a range of people, including security authorities.
- Effective PVE programming partnerships must primarily focus on **strengthening local and endogenous capacities for PVE** and strengthen community resilience to violent extremism.
- **Youth** are not the problem, but rather an important part of the solution. Unfortunately, young people are still an untapped and undervalued force for peace. We have to support and promote their role as positive agents of change and as partners.
- **Women** play a critical role in understanding, preventing and responding to violent extremism.
- Development actors should work more closely with **religious authorities** with the potential to support co-existence and dialogue.
- The most effective **media support strategies** aim for the development of free, protected and independent media that serve the broader public, build trust and reflect diverse perspectives; provide a platform for women and youth, and focus on their roles as peace builders.
- A "**PVE lens**" should be applied in order to develop explicit policy guidance establishing a normative framework for PVE programming anchored in human rights compliance.



UNDP's approach to PVE aims to address two related trends: the rise of violent extremism using a development and peacebuilding approach firmly grounded within human rights

principles; and to strengthen and promote inclusive governance of increasingly diverse and multi-cultural societies.

Our efforts at PVE are ultimately about strengthening vertical and horizontal cohesion in society as well as helping local actors reinforce their resilience to conflict and division.

UNDP believes that sustainable solutions for PVE require an inclusive development approach anchored in tolerance, political and economic empowerment, and reduction of inequalities and has outlined a broad range of approaches, initiatives and activities. UNDP's programme strategy propose 11 interlinked building blocks to PVE through development and peacebuilding which will inform UNDP's global, regional and national strategies for PVE. ([See page 27 of Oslo PVE meeting report](#)).

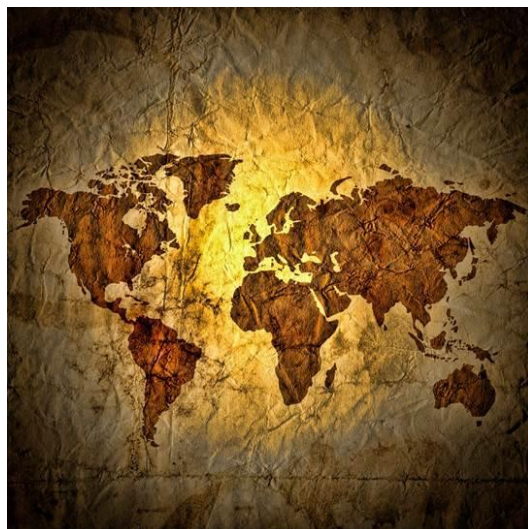
UNDP's approach to PVE will include:

- Focus on **research and lessons learned, policy dialogues and advocacy**. Research will be through partnerships and with coalitions of academics and researchers to understand the dynamics behind the rise of violent extremism; and to build a knowledge foundation to support policy development aimed at better managing diversity in society.
- **Action oriented agenda for programme support** including a PVE grants mechanism targeting a group of 25-30 countries in Africa, the Arab States, Europe and Asia.

At the country level, UNDP will work on adapting its existing portfolio of projects through applying a PVE lens, where relevant, apart from the design of new catalytic projects and launch of any fast – track projects to address immediate challenges.

UNDP believes that the Agenda 2030 and especially Sustainable Development Goal 16 provide a macro theory of change for PVE as well as an ideal global platform for it to strengthen and expand its development focused efforts to prevent violent extremism.

- PVE IN THE REGIONS -



Representatives from the Regional Bureau for **Africa** and the **Arab States**, Country Directors from across the African continent, Member States as well as civil society representatives and independent experts gathered in Nairobi in April 2016 to discuss the implementation of the recently launched Programme Document entitled, "[Preventing and Responding to Violent Extremism in Africa: A Development Approach](#)".

The meeting was designed to deepen the understanding of UNDP's approach to this phenomenon, its drivers and enablers, whilst simultaneously providing an opportunity to share experiences from different contexts, and to foster dialogue on how the different elements of the programme can be tailored to, and implemented in, specific country contexts. It resulted in an agreed understanding of UNDP's approach to preventing and responding to violent extremism in Africa consistent with the [UN Secretary General's Plan of Action](#). There was agreement to move ahead with the implementation phase including coordination with the Regional Bureau.

UNDP's Regional Hub for **Arab States** in Amman, Jordan also conducted a workshop on the Prevention of Violent Extremism for Arab States at the end of May. The meeting focused on the drivers of VE in the region, as well as media, youth and the role of women. Participants shared examples between Country Offices in the region, and defined what a Regional Programmatic Framework on PVE should include, based on needs articulated by UNDP offices.

In the media conversation it was emphasized that a hyper-local approach to PVE was

preferable. Additionally, there was discussion on the need to incorporate proper branding of PVE frameworks, as well as the need to both collaborate and communicate with other actors working in the realm of PVE. Participants also raised the need for support in how to measure impact of PVE programming as well as various design questions. The Regional Programmatic Framework is being drafted based on the consultations, and will aim to support national UNDP PVE projects in the region and regional policy work. The workshop was attended mainly by UN colleagues from across the region, complemented by academics and representatives from civil society organizations.

The **Asia region** with a focus on South and South-East Asia is using UNDP's Peace and Development Advisors network and focusing on country case studies to gain a better understanding of violent extremism and explore programming options. The region is commissioning two sub-regional papers to see common trends and cross-border issues (South and South-East Asia) and also examining how they can link research into intergovernmental processes in the region (ASEAN).

Europe is focusing on the three separate strands of ongoing research on preventative and developmental approaches that target root and structural causes of VE. These include Kosovo (1244) research that led directly to the Prime Minister's National Action Plan and which now forms a basis for a broad-spectrum PVE plan.

In **Central Asia**, a high level experts' meeting on finding "[Development Solutions for the Prevention of Violent Extremism](#)" took place in Dushanbe Tajikistan mid-June (#Dev4PVE). This working meeting of experts and participants generated and endorsed a set of 25 clear action-orientated recommendations around research, programming and coordination needs and responses in areas core to UNDP's natural areas of expertise – tackling inequalities, supporting youth empowerment, opening livelihood opportunities – to name just three. It sought to balance the necessity of development and security responses existing side-by-side and in a complimentary manner – something that is very often not achieved.

The meetings' conclusions also clearly acknowledged that socio-economic development alone is an insufficient response: issues around the politics of identity and perceptions of social injustice are also at the heart of the problems we are seeing across the region and across the globe. Encouragingly it was evident that much of UNDP's long-standing conflict prevention work includes many of the existing tools – such as the [SCORE Index](#) – necessary to steer development work in ways that address sensitivities around identity, equality and justice. Interestingly, the meeting also concluded that much of what needs to be done to tackle the root causes of violent extremism is development work in areas where UNDP is already deeply

engaged. The Outcome Document will feed into a number of national, multi-country programmes that will fit within UNDP's global programme and purview. The meeting was attended by a diverse group of 115 senior government officials, civil society representatives, academics, religious leaders, diplomats and UN colleagues from across the region.

In terms of research on PVE, interesting developments in the **Africa** region include:

- “*Journey to extremism: the Tipping Point*” is an ongoing research that is based on interviews with members of Boko Haram, Al Shabab and other extremist groups in Africa belonging to extremist groups who are in prison, amnesty programmes or reintegration centers in Nigeria, Somalia, Kenya and Uganda and their family members. The completed research report (with more than 300 such interviews) is expected by the end of the year;
- Perception studies in the Sahel are based on interviews with 800 members of border communities in the Sahel including the G5 plus Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal looking at perceptions of insecurity including violent extremism and provide an in-depth understanding on border areas and cross-border dynamics and shed new light on the concept of so called “ungoverned spaces” which are governed by other alternative, “non-conventional” actors, blurring the lines between informal and formal, licit and illicit forms of governance. The study, to be launched later this year, is a joint undertaking between UNDP and CTED and was undertaken by the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue:
- The launch of a \$100,000 research facility to support dedicated research on violent extremism to encourage think tanks and academic institutions from Africa and globally to develop niche research to better understand the phenomena of PVE;
- In addition, funding has been received to undertake research on the role women play in violent extremism both as participants but also in terms of solutions which will commence in 2016 and be published next year. Funding has also been received to undertake research to better understand the economic impact of violent extremism in Africa which will commence in 2016 and be published next year.

Finally, UNDP will offer a fresh angle on Youth & PVE research through several national case studies, exploring young people's contributions to the prevention of violent extremism and the enabling environment and support needed to enhance the impact of their work. Using a participatory methodology and capturing the local insights, experiences and solutions of young leaders, young researchers and other key stakeholders, the case studies will help establish a solid evidence base for a positive approach to engaging youth in PVE. UNDP's research on Youth & PVE will catalyze additional country-level discussions and research, develop engaging youth-generated multi-media advocacy tools, and forge new local and global partnerships on PVE among young people and other stakeholders, including through the UNDP supported Youth4peace.info portal and the creation of a

Youth & PVE lab. The results of the project will feed into the UNSCR 2250-mandated Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security currently under development. For more information, please contact youth@undp.org.

- PVE AROUND THE WORLD -



GENEVA CONFERENCE *on* PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM THE WAY FORWARD

7-8 April 2016
Palais Des Nations, Geneva / Genève



This [global conference](#) was organised in the beginning of April by the Government of Switzerland and the UN Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force Office (DPA) in Geneva at the Palais des Nations. In this two-day high-level meeting opened by the UN

Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon and the Swiss Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter, UNDP was represented by Assistant Administrator Izumi Nakamitsu. UNDP was mentioned several times throughout the conference as a key player in the prevention agenda, through our development mandate. The Outcome Document will feed into a number of national, multi-country programmes that will fit within UNDP's global programme and purview.

Review of the UN Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The Fifth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy took place on 1 July 2016. The General Assembly examined the report of the Secretary-General ([A/70/826](#)) on the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy over the past decade. It also gave further consideration to the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism ([A/70/674-A/70/675](#)), which was presented by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly in January 2016. The General Assembly adopted the resolution ([A/70/L.50](#)) by consensus.

- RESOURCES -



This report summarizes the outcomes from UNDP's regional expert consultation on radicalization in Africa



The Global Center on Cooperative Security recently published a collection of articles on the roles of women in PVE



This short collection of studies examines the challenges to effective United Nations disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programming posed by today's conflict environment



OSCE is working different angles to counter violent extremism



The Score Index is a tool designed to measure social cohesion and reconciliation as indicators of peace in multi-ethnic societies around the world. Developed through a partnership between UNDP-ACT and the Centre for Sustainable Peace and Democratic Development, with USAID funding



Online gamified dialogue especially targeting youth that provides opportunities for people to creatively interact and discuss the future of Sudan

[German Violence Prevention Network](#)

A group of experienced specialists engaged since 2001 in anti-violence work and the prevention of extremism, as well as in the de-radicalisation of extremist-motivated criminals

Conflict Related Development Analysis (CDA)

CDA is an analytical tool targeted at UNDP practitioners and other development agencies working in conflict prone and affected situations. It was designed as a practical tool to better understand the linkages between development and conflict, with a view to increasing the impact of development on conflict. For more information, please contact:

katy.thompson@undp.org