



**Side event in the margins of the Fourth review of the UN Global Counter  
Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) in NYC**

**Hosted by the Dutch PM to the UN**

***Practices in and reflections on development, security, and peace in contexts of violent extremism and terrorism by government, civil society and community delegates.***

Date: June 10

Timing and Venues:

8:30 to 11:30 AM Dutch Permanent Mission to the UN

1. Civil society engagement and a human security approach to countering violent extremism in Mali
2. Facilitating intra and inter-faith dialogue to prevent and counter violent extremism

A stand up lunch will be served between 12:15 and 12:45 in the area besides Conference room 3 in the UN Secretariat Building

12:50 to 2:50 PM UN Secretariat Building, Conference room 3

3. Reintegrating violent extremist offenders: a role for governments and communities
4. The role of young community leaders in fostering resilient communities

**Background**

The side event hosted by the Dutch Permanent Mission to the UN and organized by Human Security Collective (HSC) in collaboration with West African Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP), Hedayah, International Centre for Counterterrorism (ICCT), Cordaid and United Network of Young Peace builders (UNOY) presents a number of practices and reflections on the prevention and mitigation of threats that may lead to violent extremism and terrorism.

The organizers invited panelists from governments, civil society and communities around the globe. Their narratives reflect the characteristics of their geography, their position within their society and community and the topical issues they are involved with: security expertise, conflict mediation, human security, peace building, women's rights, reconciliation, facilitated peer to peer, victims' and perpetrators, intra and inter-faith dialogues and youth leadership.

The four panels of the side event focus on pillar 1 of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which calls for addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Pillar 1 enumerates several such conditions, including: "Prolonged unresolved conflicts, dehumanization of victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, lack of the rule of law and violations of human rights, ethnic, national and religious discrimination, political exclusion, socio-economic marginalization and lack of good governance". Under this pillar Member States also included a direct link to the Millennium Development Goals by reiterating their determination to ensure the timely and full realization of the development goals objectives.

The overarching theme of the panels is a multi-stakeholder approach to prevent and mitigate extreme violence, which is grounded in people's needs and capabilities when dealing with sources of threats. There are four panels to illustrate: 1) A human security approach to countering violent extremism in Mali, 2) Facilitating intra and inter-faith dialogue to prevent and counter violent extremism, 3) Reintegrating violent extremist offenders: a role for governments and communities, and 4) The role of young community leaders in fostering resilient communities. A concept note for each of the panels is attached. A delegate of the Dutch Mission will open and close the panels. Each panel will be introduced and moderated by one of the organizers.

The presentations show what can be done to prevent and mitigate terrorism (CT), violent extremism (CVE) or the appeal to terrorism through dialogue and understanding (DUCAT). Policy makers and donors continue to debate these policy frames in relation to the implementation of the UN GCTS and other strategic frameworks such as the post 2015 development agenda, with sustainable development at its core and cognizant of the nexus between peace and development. The organizers and panelists are involved in a number of these discussions and may put different nuances in the way they substantiate CT, CVE, DUCAT and operationalize initiatives and programs.

At the side event, the panelists and their practical experiences and reflections take center stage. They offer an inside view on their lived realities, which are vital to a sharpening of our understanding of countering terrorism and violent extremism, and to an improvement of programs that are conceived to deal with violent threats or to deal with development and peace building in contexts of violent extremism. Their narratives and anticipated interaction with the audience contribute to a better understanding of the interconnectedness between different policy and implementation frameworks, notably counter terrorism, development human rights and peace building strategies.

The panels contribute to a further closing of the gap between global policy making and governments, civil society, communities and citizens. They contribute to the validation of the UNGCTS pillar 1. They encourage civil servants, policy makers and donors to take stock of these practices, the context in which they can work, and possibilities for scaling up. Validation of the strategy through concrete initiatives and programs that are embedded in local reality is what is most required. The issues at hand are complex and cannot be resolved by one party nor by either a bottom-up approach or a top-down approach. Collective approaches that leave space for complementary knowledge and insights gained through practical experience, and honor the dignity of people and communities are in the view of the organizers, the way forward. The role of intermediary organizations and persons that are trusted by different groups and can bridge the local context with national, regional and global policy-making is vital. Equally important is the creation of an enabling environment where actors are invited to speak on experiences that are effective, common mistakes made and lessons learnt. A learning and open attitude will, we expect, contribute to an effective implementation of initiatives that prevent and mitigate violent extremism.

The organizers are aware of more angles and approaches in relation to the implementation of the UNGCTS and other narratives that may be shared by governments, civil society and citizens. We are cognizant of other valuable collaborative efforts that seek to interconnect different schools of thoughts and a growing body of practices, such as the Global Counterterrorism Forum, and initiatives of UN bodies such as UNESCO, UNICEF and UNDP that crossing over existing policy and operational boundaries with the aim to complement counter terrorism programming. By organizing the side event, we underline the importance of opportunities like the GCTS review to exchange practices, reflections and viewpoints related to a mix of approaches and presented by a diverse gamut of stakeholders that can contribute to a more secure and stable environment for societies and communities.