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GLOBAL YOUTH CONSULTATIONS ON COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE)

Strengthening Youths Cooperation on
Post-2016 CVE strategies

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INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM

Concept note:

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CONSULTATIONS ON
COUNTERING VIOLENT
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International Youth Action Against Terrorism

www.iyaat.org

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Federation of Youth Clubs-Ghana- www.federationofyouthclubs.blogspot.com;

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2 INTRODUCTION

The **International Youth Action Against Terrorism** (Herein after referred to as IYAAT) is built on a progressive framework and supporting core values that are most promising in creating a sustainable momentum in CVE transformation. Our initiative coincides with the United Nation's Post-2015 Sustainable Development agenda aimed at Global social development, and launches the youth's efforts into the focal project of CVE.

It is thus a declaration by the global youths to continue consolidating our experiences and efforts to expand the impact and spread of our work on CVE. Furthermore, the organization stands in with a dream to the creation of a one undivided global youth's community, a larger identity, by transferring the hopes of youths from racial, religious and regional discord to one united voice. Our philosophy of work and operation is balancing professionalism and activism and this has always been on our careful consideration towards our foregoing programmes.

IYAAT is working on bringing the issue of youth action in counterterrorism efforts amongst the masses. We work to Support and coordinate efforts or existing CVE related organizations and Institutions to better understand the complexity of violent extremism, including assessing the threat it poses to the globe as a whole and within specific communities. We achieve this goal using the following set methods:

1. The Annual International Youths Conference on Counter-Terrorism (IYCCT);
2. The Media Centre and Research database;
3. Digital Outreach
4. The IYAAT Consortium;
5. The Resident Council.

Further elaboration on their workings is available on request.

2.1 RATIONALE/BACKGROUND

There is a growing concern of the prevalence of Violent extremism and even as we move towards the maiden International Youths Conference on Counter-Terrorism (February 2016), we need to be more practical in all our counter-narrative proceeds. The Radicalization of youth is becoming one of the most important threats of international terrorism in globally today as more and more youths are turning to extremism in their search for identity, acceptance and purpose. With this consultation, we seek to address the issue of youths increasing radicalization, and the proposed plans for post-2016 CVE strategies (and proposed partners) that will ensure youths inclusion. As the United Nations Security Council reaffirmed at its 7272nd meeting, on 24th September 2014:

“...terrorism in all forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whosoever committed, and remaining determined to contribute further to enhancing the effectiveness of the overall effort to fight this scourge on a global level.”

We also note with concern that we are facing a new kind, and face, of global terrorism, against which conventional hardware methods will not work. The forefront face of violent extremist groups has been blurred by the opportunity of networking that Social media has presented, and the allure/literature of violent extremism ideologies has successfully captured youths from across the world. For instance, As per the United Nations Al Qaida /Taliban monitoring Team estimates, more than 13000 foreign terrorist fighters from over 80 UN member states have joined the ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant) and the al-Nusra Front. The Boko Haram militant group on the other hand also thrives by youth foot soldiers.

The threat of global terrorism must be defeated, but with an approach that is not as deliberate as the traps they on the other hand have set for us; mainly being the traps of victimization, civilian deaths and discrimination of religions, which serve as further cause and not consequence of violent extremism. Let's not forget we are fighting against **Terrorism** and rather not **The Terrorists**.

Fighting terrorism, internationally, regionally and nationally is a politics of inclusion; the requirement of international solidarity conditioned to favor a setting of thriving social justice, respect and inclusion of all religions, races, ages and gender disparities.

According to the YouthCAN Chairperson's statement at the European Conference on Countering Violent Extremism (5th June 2015-Oslo), the identified 6 topics of importance on moving forward are:

1. **Strengthening local preventive work to counter violent extremism;**
2. **Promoting research and information-sharing on the drivers of violent extremism;**
3. **The gender dimension of violent extremism;**
4. **The need for a comprehensive approach in rehabilitation, reintegration and disengagement programs;**
5. **Weakening the appeal of violent extremists;**
6. **Global cooperation to counter violent extremism.**

To this end, International Youth Action Against Terrorism (IYAAT), as the lead organizing partner for the **International Youths Conference on Counter-Terrorism (IYCCT)**, is organizing Youths consultations in all its represented countries between 15th July and 11th November 2015 as a run up to the IYCCT's objectives and expected outcomes. The resident consultations are also a crucial element in collecting positions on the IYAAT post-2016 framework and preparing a final assessment of the IYCCT Theme objectives. In

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addition to the consultations, Member States and other stakeholders will have the opportunity to individually provide input for the IYAAT post-2016 framework via an online questionnaire to be set up on the IYAAT's official website (www.iyaat.org) also in July 2015.

As the challenges related to Countering Violent Extremism and ideologies are global, it remains the responsibility of each and every country to take concrete steps against it. The cooperation of global youths, as individuals and as youth led organizations is hence found to be important in this politics of inclusion.

2.2 OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE RESIDENT CONSULTATIONS

2.2.1 Objective

The resident youth consultations on CVE will contribute to ensuring a transparent, participatory preparation of the post-2016 CVE programme framework through collecting input from youths and relevant stakeholders from all regions of reach.

2.2.2 Main Expected outcomes

1. Priority areas for IYAAT's activities post-2016 identified;
2. IYAAT initiatives that could be scaled-up in a post-2016 framework identified;
3. Key partners to involve in a post-2016 framework identified;
4. Suggestions for the preparations of the International Youths Conference on Counter-Terrorism on CVE (February 2016, Kenya) collected.

2.3 ORGANIZERS

International Youth Action Against Terrorism (possibly co-hosting with Member State government agencies):

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Burundi
4. Cameroon
5. Congo
6. Egypt
7. Ethiopia
8. Gambia
9. Ghana
10. Grenada
11. Guinea
12. India
13. Indonesia
14. Kenya
15. Liberia
16. Mauritius
17. Morocco
18. Malawi

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19. Nepal
20. Nigeria
21. Peru
22. Pakistan
23. Philippines
24. Rwanda
25. Somalia
26. Sierra Leone
27. Singapore
28. South Africa
29. South Sudan
30. Tanzania
31. Tunisia
32. United Kingdom
33. Uganda
34. Yemen
35. Zambia
36. Zimbabwe

2.4 METHOD OF CONSULTATIONS

The consultations will be conducted using online platforms and on ground levels. During the period of consultation, IYAAT will send alternate representatives drawn from within the organization, to the countries mentioned above to achieve the objectives of the consultation.

The standard questionnaire will seek to answer the following:

1. Which action areas should the post-2016 CVE framework address?
2. Where should particular priorities of the framework lie? (e.g., specific types and levels of education, specific sustainable development challenges)
[Expected outcome: priority areas for activities for post 2016 identified]
3. Which CVE initiatives have been particularly successful within your region? And why?
[Expected outcome: CVE initiatives that can be scaled-up in a post-2016 framework identified]
4. What were the challenges to implementing CVE initiatives in your region? How were challenges overcome? If not, why weren't they overcome?
5. What main partners should be involved in post-2016 CVE activities?

2.5 OUTPUT

A 3-5 page report per consulting body/person, summarizing results and recommendations on the post-2016 CVE programme framework.

Participants

Participants for the expert consultations will be drawn from, as appropriate: IYAAT Member States, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academia, CVE practitioners, local community organizations and youth organizations.

A minimum of 20 participants should take part in each consultation; depending on funding, a larger number of experts will be invited to take part.