

Turkey's Contribution to the Report to be Prepared In Accordance With Resolution 30/15 "Human Rights In Preventing And Countering Violent Extremism"

General Remarks

Violent extremism in all forms is a growing source of concern for Turkey. Turkish Government is convinced that while the rule of law based security measures, such as intercepting, deterring, and prosecuting terrorists remain as the fundamental pillar of counter-terrorism efforts, a broader approach is needed to prevent young people from being attracted to the lure of the terrorist groups, to make our societies more resilient against extremist narratives, and to rehabilitate the radicalized ones. This understanding has been the result of Turkey's decades-long and bitter struggle with terrorism in different forms and manifestations.

Accordingly, the Turkish Government fully supports the view of the UN Secretary-General that international community needs to adopt a comprehensive approach which encompasses not only security-based counter terrorism measures but also systematic measures which address the drivers of violent extremism at the local, regional, as well as global levels.

With this understanding, Turkey has co-sponsored of the Resolution 30/15 adopted during the 30th Session of the Human Rights Council.

As reaffirmed in the said Resolution, radicalization to violence is not limited to a specific ideology or system of belief, and cannot be associated with any country, religion or culture. There are different forms of radicalization which need to be addressed with equal determination. The United Nations is best placed to ensure such a balanced and comprehensive approach to this issue.

The Turkish Government is concerned about rising intolerance, discrimination and stigmatization on the basis of faith and ethnicity which aggravate marginalization and alienation, thereby providing new grounds for terrorist groups to exploit. A determined stand is needed in order to cut off this vicious cycle.

Turkey continues to play an active role in global efforts to prevent violent extremism and to counter terrorism.

As one of the Co-Chairs of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, Turkey actively contributes to the efforts of this global platform and GCTF-inspired Hedayah Center, aimed at addressing violent extremism. Turkish Government is also co-leading, together with the United States, an initiative *to address the life cycle of radicalization* with in the GCTF.

The international community should bear in mind that the inadequacy of the security-oriented counter-terrorism approaches in preventing this threat is the fundamental reason for the newly energized focus of the international community on eliminating conditions conducive to thriving of terrorism, and violent extremism.

Turkey's own experience revealed that enhancing fundamental rights and freedoms; strengthening criminal justice approach, reforming law enforcement and judiciary as well as enhancing a lively public debate have a direct impact and an added value in countering violent extremism.

Turkey's CVE work is geared towards identifying the main drivers of radicalization; preventing individuals and communities from the propaganda of terrorist groups; intervening against recruitment and propaganda efforts of terrorist organizations; and deradicalization/rehabilitation of convicted individuals.

Turkey's CVE policies are composed mainly of soft tools that embody a number of interventions such as community-policing, family support, religious counseling, educational and employment incentives and development policies with particular emphasis on vulnerable segments of the society. While we exert efforts to remove "radicalizers" from the field, interrupt networks, make it harder and more costly to join terrorist groups, we also try to understand how individuals from apparently different socio-economic backgrounds are lured to terrorist propaganda, becoming potential killers or servants of a false utopia. We focus on reaching out to families without making them targets. We try to promote role models that found their own exit gate to a promising life from tough neighbourhoods.

Turkey's efforts are directed not only to those who are affiliated with DAESH, but also for PKK, DHKP/C and others, each requiring specialized, tailor made approaches at the very local level.

The work of relevant government authorities in countering violent extremism are given below:

Office of Religious Affairs of the Prime Ministry

- The Office of Religious Affairs plays a special role in Turkey as an important actor of CVE efforts. The Office ensures that right information on the religion reaches to public at large and religious teachings are rightly interpreted, emphasizing the peaceful and tolerant messages of Islam. It provides, for example, guidelines for Friday prayers, in order to disseminate messages of non-violent and peaceful co-existence, dialogue and unity among peoples.
- The Office of Religious Affairs tasks 412 preachers to work at the prisons and 1256 religious officials to work in European, Central Asian and Balkan countries.
- Special messaging is also foreseen vis-à-vis around 2 million refugees and foreign nationals under temporary protection in Turkey.
- Every year, during the month of Ramadan, educational camps for homeless children are organized in Child Support Centers, with the aim of disseminating universal moral values.
- Turkey provides scholarships to youth from different countries all over the world. These scholarships also include education for future imams. The courses include awareness-raising against radicalization and developing and use of counter narratives.
- We also have an interesting programme whereby the religious authorities of cities from Africa, including those from Horn of Africa, for example Kampala, Mogadishu, Djibouti, Nairobi, Lilongwe and Juba, are brought together under

the term “sister cities” and conduct joint projects in these cities. This is also a very useful tool in giving the true and peaceful message of religions.

Turkish National Police

- Turkish National Police (TNP) implements projects against radicalization in all 81 provinces, plus in a more concentrated manner in provinces where the risk of radicalization by terrorist organizations are deemed higher. The Directorate has also special branches for child-related issues. 4515 personnel work in these branches.

- 5 streams of efforts are implemented by the TNP.
 - The first stream of efforts by the TNP is aimed at awareness raising within the population. The target groups are youth and other segments of population, not in contact with terrorist organizations. It starts with children and youth at the age of schooling and continues with families and other segments of population, including opinion leaders. Conferences in schools and in public, establishment of student booths (which have reached 376.018 students nationwide), classroom visits and gatherings with public in general are among the activities. In 2015, around 921.000 persons have been reached under this first stream of efforts.

 - The second stream of efforts concerns social projects involving visits, sports activities, visual or cultural activities. In 2015, more than 65.000 youth have been reached in such social activities.

 - The third stream of efforts are related to the involvement of families against radicalization (preventive; investigative; operational; in-prison support). 11.000 persons have been reached within the scope of activities involving families in 2015.

 - The fourth stream of efforts is related to the support given to scientific research in relevant areas. A new research center is established for this purpose under the Police Academy.

-The fifth stream of efforts is related to the professional training provided to officers working in the area of counter-radicalization.

Ministry of Justice

- The Ministry of Justice conducts programs for social reintegration and rehabilitation of juvenile, female and other specific groups of inmates.
- Physical conditions of prisons are ameliorated and number of prisons are increased.
- Universal values education is provided according to the specificities of each category of inmates.
- Coaching services and specific programs according to the needs of the inmates are conducted in an evidence-based manner.
- In doing these programmes the Ministry carries out research in partnership with universities, non-governmental organizations and other institutions. The Ministry facilitates access of victims to such mechanisms through social media (facebook, twitter accounts) and its victim-support specific website. It also works on preparing draft legislation or coding of existing ones.
- The Ministry has also submitted a proposal to the EU delegation in Ankara for the conduct of a project for avoiding further radicalization of terrorism-related convicts in prisons in 2015. A first, oral approval has been received from the EU side.

Ministry of Family and Social Affairs

- The Ministry of Family and Social Affairs has adopted a Strategy Document for the Protection of Children and Youth against Criminality. The Strategy document foresees identification of risk factors affecting children and youth and elimination of these factors and in cases where risk materializes, aims at avoiding harm to children and youth as well as obstructing criminal action. The Strategy involves participation by different public offices concerned as well as NGOs and universities.

- Children under protection are given special attention through specialized programs aiming at their successful integration to the society.
- The Directorate General on the Status of Women in the said Ministry works on protection of women, who are victims of conflict and violence. It also conducts projects relating to Syrian women and children living in camps foreseen for persons under temporary protection.
- Another project aiming at social integration of Syrian children living out of the camps, promoting tolerance, social cohesion and awareness raising on the risks in the society is conducted by the Ministry in cooperation with UNICEF.
- A societal integration and education program for Syrian children is jointly conducted by the Ministry and UNICEF.
- Another wider project for children by EU, UNICEF and the Ministry of Family and Social Affairs is ongoing in 21 pilot provinces.
- “Child Support and Protection” program, aiming at rehabilitation of children residing at orphanages within the scope of countering of violent extremism is recently initiated. The staff working at those institutions will be trained in 2016.

Ministry of National Education

- The Ministry of National Education provides programs aiming at;
 - (a) Protection of children and youth against criminality (involves preventive coaching services; awareness raising among education professionals and workers against violence; research centers);
 - (b) Rehabilitation and counselling programs to be used following difficult periods of life, like death, suicide, violence, accident, manmade or natural disasters and release of terror-related criminals from prison (Within the framework of the rehabilitation programs after release of terror-related criminals, 200 trainers have been trained in a pilot project involving 10 provinces. The target is to train 700 more trainers in the domain and enlarge the implementation area to all provinces);

- (c) organization of programs for vocational training and successful integration of youth to the economy, including those released from prison or socially disadvantaged (8095 persons graduated from different such courses and programs in 2015);
 - (d) establishment of adult education centers aiming successful integration of disadvantaged persons to the society;
 - (e) conduct of “Family Education Program” for successful integration of all family members to the societal life.
 - (f) identification of factors leading to criminality and their elimination through cooperation among persons, public institutions and NGOs;
 - (g) Awareness raising efforts against radicalization and counter terrorism among families, women, youth and other segments of the society.
 - (h) Counselling services under the “Child Protection Law” have accessed 2177 individuals across the country.
 - (i) The Ministry, in cooperation with UNICEF, has organized a workshop for detecting the needs of Syrian children, as well as their families and teachers, living in Gaziantep.
 - (j) “Psycho-social Intervention Services” program being planned, which aims at to reaching out and providing educational serviced to those children who did not have access to, as a result of poverty, domestic violence or migration.
- The Ministry of National Education also ensures that courses on religions and ethics favor respect for human being, her/his life, thoughts and liberty, for different religions and beliefs, importance of peace, Islam as a religion of peace, importance of living in harmony with society.

Ministry of Youth and Sports

- The Ministry of Youth and Sports conducts programs aiming at, among others, increased gathering around universal values and human rights and active involvement in all walks of social life. Youth disadvantaged for various reasons are given priority for achieving their successful integration into the society. Difference of culture, religion or else are presented as vehicles of societal unity. Awareness-raising among youth, women, families and other segments of the society against radicalization and counter-terrorism is another target of projects conducted. Youngsters coming from different regions of the country are also encouraged to meet and know each other through summer

camps organized by the ministry. Disadvantaged youth is again given priority. 631 such projects were realized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

- The Ministry of Youth and Sports also continues its work for increasing the number of youth centers in provinces where risk is deemed higher vis-à-vis criminality and terrorism.
- The Ministry has 201 Youth Centers established and running in 81 provinces.