



UNODC
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

GLOBAL PROGRAMME
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST CHILDREN **UNODC**
END VAC

From
the People of Japan

14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Wednesday
10 March 2021

14.00 to 15.30 (JST)
Conference Room D

The UNODC Roadmap on the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups



Special Event



Photo by Rene Bernal

The Challenge

Children are often among the casualties of acts of terrorism and are victims of abduction, trafficking, and sexual and gender-based violence by terrorist groups. In recent years, the international community has been increasingly confronted with the recruitment and exploitation of children perpetrated by a variety of groups all over the world, making this a truly global issue.

The technological advances and strategic specificities of terrorist groups have made instances of recruitment more difficult to detect, recruitment campaigns broader, and have also made children associated with such groups more vulnerable to stigma and discrimination.

The cross-border nature of terrorist activities, highlighted by the latest wave of individuals who travelled abroad to join designated terrorist groups, adds another dimension that impacts children. The Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF) phenomenon poses considerable challenges to Member States. The defeat of ISIL in Syria and Iraq has placed the issue of children with links to the FTF phenomenon at the centre of the international agenda and has highlighted the lack of common approaches to address their basic needs and ensure these children are protected from violence.

While the nature and gravity of violence against these children may vary, its short- and long-term implications are severe for both children and society as a whole. The consequences of this serious form of violence against children can be devastating, impacting not only their physical development, but also their cognitive, emotional and psychological development and wellbeing.

Programme

Opening Statement Ms. Miwa Kato - Director, Division for Operations, UNODC

Speakers

H.E. Ms. Mari Miyoshi - Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime (Japan)

Ms. Hilde Hardeman - Head, European Commission's Service for Foreign Policy Instruments (European Union)

Mr. Andhika Chrisnayudhanto - Deputy Head for International Cooperation of The National Counter Terrorism Agency (Indonesia)

Mr. Faiq Zidan - President of the Supreme Judicial Council and Chief of the Federal Court of Cassation (Iraq)

Rear Admiral Yem Musa - Office of the National Security Adviser; Ms. Mairo Abbas - Head Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (Nigeria)

H.E. Mr. Talgat Kaliyev - Ambassador-at-large (Kazakhstan)

Moderator Ms. Miwa Kato - Director, Division for Operations, UNODC

This Special Event is co-sponsored by the European Union and the Governments of Austria, Japan and Indonesia.

Event Objectives

- I. Present the UNODC Roadmap;
- II. Outline the work that has been carried out by the UNODC END-VAC Programme, thanks to the generous support of the Government of Japan;
- III. Present STRIVE Juvenile: Preventing and Responding to Violence against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups;
- IV. Discuss challenges faced by Member States in dealing with children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups;
- V. Raise awareness on the role of key actors in promoting measures aimed to: i) prevent recruitment of children, ii) promote their rehabilitation and the reintegration, and iii) elaborate justice responses appropriate for children in a counter-terrorism context;
- VI. Gather political support from UN Member States in the dissemination and further implementation of measures aimed to tackle the phenomenon.



- 1 Efforts should be addressed to prevent child association with these groups;
- 2 Children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups should be considered and treated primarily as victims of crime, and such consideration leads to the need to protect, respect and fulfil the rights of all child victims regardless of their involvement in criminal activities as alleged offenders. Great efforts must be addressed to prevent secondary victimization of these children;
- 3 The key objective of any action taken in relation to all children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups should be to promote their rehabilitation and reintegration;
- 4 When children are alleged as, accused of or recognized as having committed a terrorism-related offence, they are entitled to all rights established by international law in relation to juvenile justice, with no exception or derogation due to the nature of the offence committed.

The UNODC END-VAC Programme contributes to assisting countries in achieving Sustainable Development Goals 5, 8, 11, 16 and 17 of the 2030 Agenda, and calls for a comprehensive approach in dealing with violence against children as an integral part of ensuring global development.



Launched and presented in June 2019 at UN Headquarters in New York and in July 2019 at the African Regional High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism in Nairobi, Kenya, the UNODC Roadmap is a result of more than five years of technical assistance delivery to requesting Member States on the treatment of children associated with terrorist and violent extremist groups. It was elaborated under the framework of a Japan-funded initiative and through the contribution of global experts in child rights and in counter-terrorism. The UNODC Roadmap summarizes relevant guidance for action in the areas of prevention; rehabilitation and reintegration; and, justice responses.

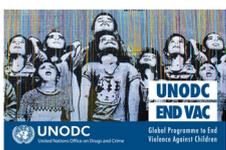


In doing so, the UNODC Roadmap acts as a manifesto, intended to promote an integrated approach to the treatment of these children, recognizing that preserving public safety and protecting child rights are two complementary objectives that should be pursued concomitantly in order to achieve long-lasting peace and security.

In March 2020, UNODC co-organized with the Government of Indonesia the High-Level Event on Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups: 'The UNODC Roadmap in Action' in Bali, Indonesia. On this occasion, Indonesia expressly endorsed the Roadmap through the "Bali Call for Action". This was further supported by the Republic of Maldives, which requested to become a pilot country for its implementation. Since then, numerous countries have expressed willingness to use the UNODC Roadmap as policy guidance at the national level and to address efforts to implement it with the support of UNODC.

STRIVE Juvenile: Preventing and Responding to Violence against Children by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups is a three-year (2021-2024), EUR 5.5 million initiative by the European Union and UNODC. The project aims to partner with the selected countries, the Republic of Indonesia, the Republic of Iraq and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the development and implementation of comprehensive national responses to prevent and counter violent extremism affecting children, in full respect of human rights, gender equality and international law. The project assists governmental authorities and civil society organizations in targeted, innovative and demand-driven interventions to:

- ➡ Improve government strategies, policies and mechanisms related to child recruitment and exploitation by terrorist groups, and
- ⚙️ Increase resilience of vulnerable children against terrorist groups agendas.



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