

THE BALI CALL FOR ACTION

FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNODC ROADMAP

ON CHILDREN ASSOCIATED WITH TERRORIST AND VIOLENT EXTREMIST GROUPS

We, the representatives of the Governments of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Maldives participating at the Cross-Regional Event on the Treatment of Children Recruited and Exploited by Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups in Bali, agreed to:

PREAMBLE

*Acknowledging that **child recruitment and exploitation are serious forms of violence against children** and expressing deep concern for its harmful and widespread impact on the physical and mental well-being of the child and on the harmonious development of his or her personality as well as for their consequences on communities and society at large;*

*Recognizing that **terrorism poses a threat to peace and security**, and that children are particularly affected by this phenomenon;*

*Strongly reaffirming that **children are entitled to special care and assistance** and their rights shall be respected, protected and fulfilled;*

*Stressing that **international coordination and cooperation** and shared commitment to the values of peace and justice are essential to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, which cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, or civilization,*

BODY OF THE DECLARATION

1. We reaffirm adherence to international law, in particular the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict as well as relevant universal counter-terrorism provisions, **calling on Member States to prohibit all forms of child recruitment and exploitation** by non-State groups, including criminal groups, with no distinction related to age, consent, or specific designation of the armed and/or criminal group, **including through criminalization**.
2. We consider that children associated with, or affected by, terrorist and violent extremist groups **are primarily victims and should be treated accordingly**, in a way that takes into account their best interests as a primary consideration, that promotes their physical and psychological recovery and that fosters their health, self-respect and dignity through child-sensitive and gender-sensitive approaches.
3. We emphasize the need to invest in strategies and measures to **prevent recruitment and exploitation of children** by terrorist and violent extremist groups as a priority in order to effectively protect children and society as a whole from future violence.
4. We reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that any action taken in relation to a child associated with terrorist groups or violent extremist groups should aim to promote his or her **rehabilitation and reintegration** into society, in accordance with the child's specific characteristics, circumstances and needs, as a pre-requirement for building peaceful societies.
5. We stress that any child formerly associated with a terrorist or violent extremist group who is **in contact with the national authorities, including from the justice system**, whether as a victim, witness or as an alleged offender, has the right to be treated according to appropriate safeguards, in accordance with applicable international law, and in a way that prevents further victimization and is conducive to promoting his or her rehabilitation and reintegration. We believe that deprivation of liberty and prosecution should be adopted only as measures of last resort.
6. With regards to **children affected by the foreign terrorist fighters phenomenon**, we express deep concerns that their situation may expose them to further violations of their rights and reiterate the necessity to take relevant measures to provide appropriate reintegration and rehabilitation assistance to these children.
7. We affirm our commitment to take steps to have a community friendly approach which would enable empowerment of CSOs and other relevant government and non-government stakeholders to work together on the Preventing and Countering Terrorism and Violent Extremism when conducive to terrorism.
8. We endorse the UNODC Roadmap on the Treatment of Children Associated with Terrorist and Violent Extremist Groups as a valuable resource for comprehensive guidance on strategies and measures to address the situation of these children.
9. We strongly reaffirm our support to the UNODC Roadmap's pledge to integrate the protection of public safety and the fulfillment of child rights as complementary objectives, which is necessary to overcome the perceived dichotomy between security policies and human rights protection, and we call on UNODC to provide support, where necessary, to the process of its implementation at national, regional and global levels.