16 October 2019

08:30 – 9:00  Registration
09:00 – 09:30  Opening and Welcome Remarks
09:30 – 10:00  Coffee Break and Group Photo
10:00 – 11:30  Session 1
               A New Typology of Armed Conflicts and Groups:
               The Strategic, Legal and Operational Implications

Today’s conflicts are complex, deadly and intractable. While the majority is intrastate, most are regionalized and/or internationalized, involving a wide array of non-state armed groups. The evolution of armed groups, combined with the growing terrorism-crime nexus, presents peace and security, development and humanitarian actors, with enormous strategic, operational and legal challenges. Among these challenges are the increasingly blurring lines between civilians, combatants, and individuals associated with terrorist groups. This is further exacerbated by the multiplicity of legal frameworks at the national, regional and international levels. To address these challenges, an integrated, coherent and mutually reinforcing approach needs to emerge. This session will tackle the strategic, legal and operational implications of this evolving landscape, as seen from the vantage point of peace and security, development, humanitarian and legal experts and practitioners in Africa.

11:30 – 13:00  Session 2
               An Evolving Normative Framework: Challenges and Opportunities

This session will take stock of the evolving body of normative frameworks and operational guidance aiming at informing the handling of individuals formerly associated with terrorist groups. It will examine the various international and regional instruments related to dealing with individuals formerly associated with terrorist groups (relevant UNSC resolutions, the revised IDDRS, Madrid Guiding Principles, Key Principles for the Protection, Repatriation, Prosecution, Rehabilitation and Reintegration of Women and Children, AU Operational Guidance Notes, etc.) to assess the adequacy of such frameworks in responding to the challenges arising from the new typology of armed conflicts and groups, explore the opportunities and challenges facing their operationalization, as well as the need for achieving better synergies between these frameworks.

13:00 – 14:00  Lunch Break
Session 3
Incentivizing Defections

Defections from terrorist groups weaken those groups, deprive them of critical resources and delegitimize their cause and ideology, hence facilitating their defeat and contributing to the success of counterterrorism efforts. In this context, and while understanding individuals’ journeys to extremism is crucial, equally important, is understanding what happens to those individuals during their membership of, or association with, terrorist groups, and why some of them ultimately decide to defect. This session will examine the drivers, incentives and tipping points for defection, with a view to informing the design, implementation and evaluation of programs and interventions that aim to incentivize defections and managing defectors’ journeys out of extremism, including reintegration.

Coffee Break

Session 4
Managing Journeys Out of Extremism: Operational Responses and Innovation from the Field

This session will shed light on innovative programming in the field, with a particular focus on programs and interventions that leverage the complimentary mandates and expertise of actors from a wide array of fields, including DDR, CVE, Rule of Law, Corrections, etc. The aim is to draw on good practices and lessons learnt that can inform future interventions and programming. The session will also assess opportunities, challenges and risks associated with various strategies or measures aimed at handling individuals formerly associated with terrorist groups.

17 October, 2019

Session 5
Addressing the Needs of Vulnerable Groups in Asymmetrical Conflict Environments

Conflict and terrorism affect different groups in various ways. Among the most vulnerable groups prone to be disproportionately impacted are women, children, youth, refugees, IDPs, and individuals with disabilities. This session will explore the specific needs of the aforementioned groups, as well as discuss the adequacy of existing global and regional normative frameworks with regards to the protection of their rights. The session will also develop ideas for designing and implementing programs aimed at reducing factors of vulnerability for these groups.

Coffee Break

Session 6
From Stabilization to Sustaining Peace: Creating a Post Terrorism-Governed Local Order

While military gains might be achieved against terrorist armed groups, the bigger challenge is sustaining peace. States are faced with the daunting task of establishing a legitimate and viable state structure. This session will discuss the characteristics of these new governance structures, beyond the limited conceptions of extension of state
authority (by means of provision of goods and basic services), towards reestablishing
durable social contracts with communities. It will also examine interventions aimed at
supporting efforts of societies and communities’ healing and recovery.

Lunch

Session 7

Preventing Journeys to Extremism: Pillars of Resilience and Fragility

Mindful of the renewed focus on preventing radicalization, recruitment and mobilization
of individuals into terrorist groups', this session will examine local pillars of resilience and
fragility. It will draw on the experiences of local and national actors at the community
level to improve community resilience to radicalization and extremism conducive to
terrorism and raise individual barriers to entry. The session will focus on community-
based interventions aimed at preventing recruitment of individuals at-risk (youth, women,
children, etc).

Coffee Break

Session 8

Towards a Comprehensive, Integrated and Coherent Approach

This session is the culmination of two days of deliberation and aims to consolidate policy
and programmatic recommendations that leverages the complimentary mandates and
expertise of multiple stakeholders engaged in incentivizing defection, dealing with
individuals associated with terrorist organization, and preventing recidivism, as well as
developing integrated and coherent policy recommendations.

Closing Remarks

Strategic Partners

This workshop is organized by the Cairo International Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and
Peacebuilding (CCCPA) in its capacity as the secretariat of the Aswan Forum, in cooperation with the
United Nations including the Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (UN OROLSI).

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