

High-level Thematic Conversation on Children and Youth affected by Violent Extremism

Violent extremism represents one of the most complex challenges faced by our global community today. Our children and youth are often the most vulnerable to the scourge of radicalization and violence. The threats faced by youth and children require the United Nations to double its efforts and refine its responses to addressing the challenges of violent extremism.

In this regard, the President of the UN General Assembly will host a High Level Thematic Conversation (HLTC) of the General Assembly on 3 June 2016. The HLTC will be structured around several High Level Panel Discussions addressing the versatile nature of threats of violent extremism to children and youth, as well as examine ways to strengthen prevention efforts and reinforce existing strategies to counter violent extremism with a specific focus on children and youth.

The HLTC will offer key stakeholders a platform to discuss the “push and pull” factors that may lead to radicalization and violent extremism, as well as to share good practices that promote rehabilitation and social integration of children and youth involved in acts of violent extremism.



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

17 March, 2016

Excellency,

I have the honour to invite you to the High Level Thematic Conversation on children and youth affected by violent extremism, which I will convene on 3 June 2016, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., in the Trusteeship Council Chamber, UN Headquarters.

The High Level Thematic Conversation will provide the membership with a unique forum to exchange views on ways to prevent and mitigate the threat posed by violent extremism on children and youth. The meeting will also discuss evidence-based practices for bolstering resilience and developing community wide responses.

Please find enclosed, for your kind information, the brief concept note of the meeting and the programme outline of the event. I look forward to your participation in this important meeting.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mogens Lykketoft', written in a cursive style.

Mogens Lykketoft

To All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC CONVERSATION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFECTED BY VIOLENT EXTREMISM

Trusteeship Council Chamber, 3 June 2016

The high-level thematic conversation will contribute to the ongoing debate on preventing and countering manifestations of violent extremism with a specific focus on children and youth. It will stress that children and youth are the future of society and that the failure to protect, respect and promote their rights creates an environment that may be conducive to radicalization, violent extremism. It will emphasize that children and youth require a different response as different legal standards and principles apply. The thematic conversation will also discuss the importance of empowering children and youth to realize their full potential through participation in political processes, and by promoting education, employment opportunities and social inclusion.

The conversation will also seek a better understanding of the push and pull factors driving young people to join violent extremist groups and on how to address real and/or perceived grievances. This includes identifying proactive measures to protect children, from forced recruitment and use by armed groups engaged in extreme violence.

The meeting will discuss good practices and measures to effectively advance in prevention efforts to deter and mitigate the threat posed by radicalization and violent extremism on children and youth.

It builds on the strong momentum created further to the adoption of S/RES/2250 (9 December 2015) on 'Youth, peace and security,' A/RES/69/194 (18 December 2014) on 'United Nations model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice,' S/RES/2225 (18 June 2015) on 'Children and armed conflict,' the Doha Declaration on 'Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation' (ECOSOC resolution 2015/19-A/C.3/70/L.2.) and the Security Council open debate on the 'Role of Youth in Countering Violent Extremism and Promoting Peace,' held in April 2015.

It will be a one-day meeting consisting of an opening session, four High-level interactive and multi-stakeholder panel discussions and a closing session. A President's Summary will be issued at the conclusion and will be subsequently made available to all Member States and stakeholders.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY HIGH LEVEL THEMATIC CONVERSATION ON
CHILDREN AND YOUTH AFFECTED BY VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations

3 June 2016

10:00 am – 10:40 am High-Level Opening Segment

10:45 am – 11:50 am High-Level Interactive Panel Discussion I

Preventing Children and Youth from Radicalization

The panelists will focus on a number of the “push and pull” factors that may lead to radicalization. Panelists will be asked to discuss the challenges of radicalization, present examples of good preventative practices, and assess the effectiveness of initiatives aimed at preventing radicalization. Presenters will also be asked to address how children and youth (including young women and girls) can be key actors in building resilience within their communities and in developing remedies and solutions.

11:55 am – 1:00 pm High-Level Interactive Panel Discussion II

From radicalization to Violent Extremism

The panel will address context and point out risk factors – global and local that could push radicalized children and youth into violent extremism. The panel will also discuss lessons learned on ways to protect the rights of children and youth and to prevent them from falling into violent extremism.

1:10 pm – 2:50 pm Lunch

3:00 pm - 4:25 pm High-Level Interactive Panel Discussion III

Deradicalisation, Rehabilitation and Reintegration

The panel will focus on sharing good practices and persisting challenges in promoting rehabilitation and social integration of children and youth who got involved with violent extremism as well as in the response of criminal justice systems.

4:30 pm - 5:50 pm High-Level Interactive Panel Discussion IV

Multi-stakeholder engagement

The session will address current efforts undertaken by UN agencies, foundations and private sector to support Member States to effectively deal with children and youth associated with violent extremist groups, including when such association results into crime.

5:50 pm - 6:00 pm Closing Remarks