United Nations Security Council Open Arria Formula Meeting

Preventing terrorism and violent extremism through tackling gender stereotypes, masculinities, and structural gender inequality

Date: 28 July 2021
Time: 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Venue: VTC

Participation: All UN Member States, Permanent Observers and non-governmental organizations are invited to attend. Speaking possibilities for UN Security Council members and other UN members time permitting. Participants are encouraged to limit their interventions to 3 minutes.

Objective:

The objective is to discuss and analyse how a focus on masculinities, gender stereotypes and gender inequality, can allow for a more comprehensive gender approach by the UN Security Council to tackle the issue of radicalization to violence and to more effectively prevent terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Background:

The Security Council has been actively engaged in the agendas of Women, Peace and Security, and Counter-Terrorism for many years now. However, the notion of “masculinities” has not been incorporated neither to its narrative nor to its assessment of these issues, even when terrorist groups themselves deliberately exploit ideas and stereotypes about masculinities in their propaganda and recruitment efforts. According to CTED, “a gender perspective not only means focusing on the roles of women but also on the roles of men, masculinities and structural gender inequality. (…) A gender-sensitive approach should also take into account notions of masculinity and gender stereotypes in
the mobilization and recruitment of men."\(^1\) Informal discussions have taken place, together with civil society, to advance a comprehensive gender-sensitive agenda. One example of such efforts was the joint CTED-IPI series of consultations that took place in November 2020 to explore if and how a focus on masculinities can allow for a more comprehensive approach to integrating gender considerations in counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism.\(^2\)

Despite this recognition, the notion of masculinities and gender stereotypes has not yet formally been incorporated to the United Nation’s CT and PVE agendas. In this context, this Arria Formula meeting builds upon the need to address this gap, in an inclusive and transparent discussion which can help inform future reports by the Secretary-General on the issue, and to advance a Security Council comprehensive gender-sensitive approach that takes into consideration the dimension of masculinities, gender stereotypes and gender inequality as key elements of its preventive agenda.

In their briefings, Executive Director Michèle Coninsx could address how CTED is working on exploring and incorporating this issue to their work in accordance with their mandate. Dr. David Duriesmith, lecturer in gender and politics at The University of Sheffield, will address the need to better understand the concept of masculinity and the way in which this understanding has an impact in the prevention of violent extremism. Finally, Ms. Fauziya Abdi Ali, who serves as the President of Women in International Security -Horn of Africa, and has over 10 years’ experience working on security and governance reform, will offer her view as a practitioner on these issues.

**Guiding questions:**

(a) How do racially, ethnically or ideologically motivated individuals and groups resorting to violence, terrorist tactics and terrorist groups use and exploit gender roles, including interpretations of masculinities, to further their objectives?

(b) How can a comprehensive UN gender-sensitive approach to CT and PVE agendas, that include addressing gender stereotypes and interpretations of masculinity, contribute to prevent the mobilization and recruitment of men?

(c) How can the notion of “masculinities” be fully incorporated in the United Nations gender agenda, in particular on WPS, CT and PVE, to foster a positive impact on peace and security?

**Briefers:**

1) **Ms. Michèle Coninsx**, Executive Director of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).

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2) **Dr. David Duriesmith**, lecturer in gender and politics at The University of Sheffield.

3) **Ms. Fauziya Abdi Ali**, President of Women in International Security -Horn of Africa.

**Logistics:**

The meeting will take place via video conference (VTC) and will be streamed live and opened to public through UN WebTV. Further technical details will follow. The meeting will be held in English and no simultaneous interpretation is offered. To register as a **SPEAKER** please fill the following form: [https://bit.ly/3qpNxaD](https://bit.ly/3qpNxaD). For any questions, please use the following email address: missionmxny@gmail.com.

There will be a statement by the briefers followed by the UN Security Council members wishing to do so, as well as by other UN member states. In order to allow as many participations as possible, each intervention will be limited to 3 minutes. The list of speakers closes on 27 July at 6:00pm. A Chair’s Summary will be prepared reflecting the interventions of the briefer and speakers. To that end, speakers are encouraged to send their statement to the email address: missionmxny@gmail.com.