



**White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism  
Follow-on Process: Senior Official's Meeting**

*29 July 2015, Rome, Italy*

**Remarks by Thomas Wuchte  
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Excellences,

Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to be here today and represent the OSCE Secretary General. I would like, on his behalf, to thank Italy for having invited the OSCE to this *Senior Official's Meeting*. Allow me to provide you with an update on the efforts of the OSCE to support the CVE Summit process since we took part in the inaugural meeting at the White House earlier this year.

***OSCE Security Days on “Building Bridges: Promoting Dialogue to Prevent Radicalization and Violent Extremism”***

First of all, as announced by the OSCE Secretary General in February, the OSCE convened a special Security Days Event on 21-22 May in Vienna as an open debate about the factors conducive to violent extremism and possible measures and actions to prevent and counter radicalization.

The event gathered more than 300 participants representing OSCE participating States, OSCE Asian and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation, religious communities, civil society, the media and the academic community

Through five dynamic panel discussions among high-level participants, with active engagement of the audience, participants looked at the role of media, education, inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue, and the empowerment of women and youth in reducing tensions and turning vulnerable individuals away from violent radicalization.

The event included a discussion on a roadmap for future joint action with other International and Regional Organizations

***2015 OSCE-wide Counter-Terrorism Expert Conference***

The second activity we undertook to contribute to the CVE Summit process was the organization on 30 June and 1 July in Vienna of an OSCE-wide counter-terrorism expert conference on “Countering the Incitement and Recruitment of Foreign Terrorist Fighters”.

It was the highest attended counter-terrorism conference held by the OSCE and brought together some 350 participants from over 50 participating States, all 11 OSCE Partners for Co-operation, 20 international and regional organizations, and over fifty participants from civil society, academia and the private sector.

Based on these discussions, the Serbian OSCE Chairmanship issued a Perception Paper on outcomes and recommendations from the conference, in anticipation of the high-level CVE discussions to be held on the margins of the UN General Assembly.

Looking ahead, in the view of the Serbian Chairmanship, the discussions and resulting recommendations provide a solid basis for the adoption of a specific OSCE Ministerial Council Statement on Countering Violent Extremism and Radicalization that Lead to Terrorism.

### ***“OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism”***

During the conference, the Serbian Chairmanship and the OSCE Secretary General launched a communication campaign “OSCE United in Countering Violent Extremism”.

The campaign is intended to send a unified message from the OSCE, all its participating States, all its executive structures, to reinforce a global consensus against violent extremism,

It will highlight the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to preventing terrorism by branding and better communicating through social media on all relevant activities across the Organization.

We have invited all OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, as well as academic institutions, civil society organizations and religious institutions across the OSCE area to rally under the umbrella of this campaign.

Within two weeks after its launch, the campaign had already reached over 700,000 people through social media, which shows the great demand and interest from the public in countering violent extremism.

### ***Support to the Development and Implementation of CVE Strategies***

According to our inventory efforts, by the end of April, 18 OSCE participating States had a CVE action plan and/or strategy, out of which 14 are European Union (EU) Member States.

We are already assisting Tajikistan and Kosovo<sup>1</sup> in developing CVE strategies and action plans. In **Tajikistan** we have been implementing a field capacity building programme since 2010, including field research. We helped establish an inter-agency working group in charge of overseeing and co-ordinating CVE related efforts, including the drafting of a strategy and action plan, which are expected for adoption before the end of the year with OSCE support.

In **Kosovo**<sup>1</sup>, the OSCE has been supporting the drafting of a CVE strategy upon a request from the authorities last November. We have facilitated the constitution of a working group, the organization of two consultative roundtables, and we are assisting the drafting.

Both in Tajikistan and Kosovo<sup>1</sup> we will stay closely engaged in supporting the implementation phase, in concert with international partners.

We are also engaged with **Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)** and have a project ready, funded by the U.S. Government, to help BiH implement the CVE aspects of its newly adopted national counter-terrorism strategy, and a forthcoming counter-terrorism, action plan which is expected to be adopted in September.

Generally, the OSCE is ideally placed regionally to support, and co-ordinate support, to other interested OSCE participating States outside the EU, thanks to its field presence and long established relationships with public authorities and civil society. Consultations are, for instance, on-going with **Serbia**.

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<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

## ***Proposed Guidelines for CVE strategies and Action Plans***

Let me briefly share with you our proposed guidelines for CVE strategies and action plans, drawn from comparative analysis and recommendations that emerged from our work to promote policy dialogue over the past five years.

In terms of **process**, it is essential to ensure inter-agency input and adequately consult with all stakeholders expected to play a role in implementation, including civil society and community-based groups.

By way of introduction, CVE strategies should outline an internal **national assessment** to promote a shared understanding of the problem, its manifestations, underlying drivers, and impacts.

CVE strategies should provide an **overall vision and explain core principles**, such as evidence-based action; co-operative and co-ordinated measures; whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach; inclusiveness (men, women, youth); encompassing preventive, repressive, and rehabilitative aspects; upholding human rights and the rule of law; bottom-up/focused on tailored, local action; drawing on international and regional co-operation.

The strategies should detail distinct **objectives and the approach** proposed to achieve these objectives. Examples of possible objectives include:

(1) *Continuously improving and sharing a dynamic and multi-dimensional understanding of the threat*; through international exchange, intelligence, inter-agency process, national and local assessments, but also research, public awareness raising;

(2) *Engaging with and assisting vulnerable individuals*, by working with communities, families, front line public authorities, to timely identify and address situations of concerns, establish diversion schemes and promote alternative opportunities.

(3) *Countering the spread of ideas antagonistic with universal human rights, human dignity, and democracy*, through strategic communication and by empowering those stakeholders in society best placed to effectively develop and get across counter-messages and to promote alternatives narratives.

(4) *Strengthening rule of law based criminal justice responses* by establishing adequate legal basis and building capacities to identify, disrupt and bring to justice those responsible for inciting and recruiting for terrorism, while upholding human rights and the rule of law.

(5) *Facilitating the rehabilitation and reintegration of violent extremist and terrorist offenders*, by establishing voluntary programmes, including religious/psychological counselling and working with families and receiving communities, release and post release support.

CVE strategies should also explicitly foresee a **mechanism for co-ordinating/ overseeing the implementation** – such as inter-agency working group, parliamentary oversight, consultative bodies – as well as a **specific time frame to evaluate and update** the document.

With regard to action planning, some effective practices include: identifying concrete and realistic actions for a given timeframe; clearly defining tasks and responsibilities; mainstreaming gender; defining clear co-ordination and monitoring modalities; and anticipating from the beginning the need for evaluating progress.

## ***OSCE Follow-up Training Initiatives***

To conclude, I want to briefly highlight two follow-up training initiatives from the OSCE which will contribute to sustaining the Summit Process beyond the UN General Assembly and support national implementation efforts.

We will develop a **‘Leaders against Intolerance and Violent Extremism’ (LIVE)** training initiative to build the capacity of civil society leaders across the OSCE to speak out, mobilize others, and undertake initiatives against intolerance and violent extremism.

As a first step, the OSCE will seek to develop three pilot training courses respectively tailored to women, youth, and religious and traditional leaders, to provide them with relevant knowledge and skills to serve as multiplying forces to advocate and support national CVE awareness-raising and counter-narratives efforts.

**Furthermore, we are developing awareness raising courses for community police officers** based on the OSCE Guidebook on “Preventing Terrorism and Countering VERLT”: A Community-Policing Approach”. Our approach is to promote not only vigilance but also constructive community engagement for joint problem-solving.

Last, I would like to mention that the OSCE will hold on 7-8 October in Bucharest an **expert workshop on “Media Freedom and Responsibilities in the Context of Counter-Terrorism Policies”**; this was also announced by the Secretary General in Washington in February as a contribution to the Summit Process, and we already expect a follow-up event early next year in Turkey.

Thank you.