

CICTE PROGRAM:

PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM: ADDRESSING RECRUITMENT AND RADICALIZATION THAT COULD BE CONDUCTIVE TO TERRORISM

Description



Violent extremism, and especially violent extremism that could be conducive to terrorism is a growing concern worldwide. Extremist groups can emerge and grow in any area; they seek to take advantage of marginalized groups or individuals by exploiting narratives of actual or perceived grievances, while promising empowerment and change through the use of violence.

Violent extremists have also found ways to exploit public fears associated with the COVID-19 pandemic and political, social, and economic grievances to incite violence.

There are different levels of awareness, understanding, and risk perception among public officials and the general population regarding the threat posed by violent extremism, its evolving nature, manifestations, and implications from a gender and inter-sectional perspective. However, there is growing international consensus that there is a need for a more comprehensive approach to counter terrorism, including through the development and implementation of prevention measures to address the drivers of violent extremism.

While regional and national capacities to assess this threat, prevent and address recruitment and radicalization to violence varies from country to country, OAS Member States have agreed to strengthen their hemispheric efforts to address and counter violent extremism that could be conducive to terrorism. This commitment is reflected in CICTE 2018 Declaration “Strengthening hemispheric efforts to address and counter violent extremism that is conducive to terrorism” and, more recently, in OAS General Assembly Resolutions 2950 (L-O/20) and 2970 (LI-O/21) “Advancing Hemispheric Security: a multidimensional approach”. CICTE is the only regional organization with a relevant mandate on the subject in the Hemisphere.

Objectives

- To contribute to the prevention of violent extremism that could be conducive to terrorism in the Americas, in line with the United Nations Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, as well as OAS/CICTE mandates.
- To support OAS Member States’ efforts to enhance their policy framework, knowledge, tools, and technical capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism that could be conducive to terrorism.

Participating countries



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Activities

→ Policy Development:

- Analysis of existing legal and regulatory frameworks for the prevention of violent extremism.
- Technical support provided, upon request, for the development of national, subregional and regional policy frameworks to prevent violent extremism.

→ Capacity Building:

- Identification of regional/national experts and practitioners on the subject matter.
- Design and delivery of tailor-made training programs.
- Awareness raising activities.
- Expert group meetings.
- Peer-to-peer discussions.
- Multisectoral dialogue.

→ Knowledge generation/sharing

- Information-sharing initiatives for the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned.
- Creation of an information hub (open-source information only) that includes best practices, toolkits, and other resources.
- Preparation and publication of policy and technical papers on specific topics.



Expected results



Increased awareness, access to knowledge and information on the significant threat posed by violent extremism at the national, regional, and global level as well as the need to prevent it.



Increased understanding of the origins and expressions of violent extremism in the Americas (similarities and differences compared to other regions) from a gender and inter-sectional perspective.



Enhanced technical capacity of government officials and key stakeholders to prevent and address the challenges posed by extremist recruitment, and radicalization to violence both online and offline.



Enhanced policy frameworks for addressing violent extremism, enhancing prevention and response mechanisms in Member States from a human rights, gender, and intersectional perspective.



Strategic partners

CICTE will coordinate with other international and regional organizations and key institutions working on this field to foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts.



Contact

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