Demobilizing and Disengaging Violent Extremists (DDVE):
Practical Experience from Somalia

A Public Meeting of Senior Experts convened by
United Nations University in concert with the DDR Section of UN DPKO
Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York
4 June 2015, 9:00-18:30

9:00 - 9:30  Welcoming Remarks

Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions
Minister Abdirisak Omar Mohamed, Minister of Internal Security, Federal Government
of Somalia (TBC)

Mr. James Cockayne, Head of Office, United Nations University, New York

9:30 - 11:00  DDVE in the Current Strategic Environment and the Case of Somalia

Moderator:  Mr. James Cockayne, Head of Office, United Nations University

Introducing UN DDR in an Era of Violent Extremism: Is It Fit for Purpose? (UNU, 2015)
Dr. Siobhan O’Neil, DDR Project Manager, United Nations University

Keynote:  Dr. Vanda Felbab-Brown, Senior Fellow, The Brookings Institution

Response:  Minister Abdirisak Omar Mohamed, Federal Government of Somalia (TBC)

Moderated questions and answers.

11:00 - 11:15  Coffee Break
11:15 - 12:45 Challenges for DDR: Violent Extremists and Foreign Fighters

There has recently been great attention to efforts to counter violent extremism (CVE) and rehabilitate terrorists. Often called the softer side of counterterrorism, CVE and rehabilitation programs seek to proactively address the conditions thought to inspire terrorism and intervene to prevent the escalation from grievance to violence, as well as rehabilitate those who have engaged in terrorist activity, reintegrate them back into society, and reduce their chances for recidivism. This panel explores the nexus between CVE/rehabilitation and DDR programming: Are recent CVE/rehabilitation efforts analogous, or at least complimentary, with DDR programming? Are there relevant lessons learned from CVE/rehabilitation programming that should be applied to DDR?

Moderator: (TBC)

Ms. Naureen Fink, Research Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security

Mr. Simon Yazgi, Section Chief, Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration Section (DDRS), DPKO

Representative of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) (TBC)

13:00 - 14:30 By invitation Lunch: A Personal Reflection on DDR Programming

Westside Terrace

This session provides a unique perspective from Malian Minister Mohamed Zahabi Ould Sidi, whose experience with DDR programming at all levels has generated unique insights into the challenges facing DDR efforts in today’s security environment, to include the conflict in his homeland of Mali. Minister Sidi was involved in the Touareg rebellion in Mali in the 1990s, later serving as the spokesman for the umbrella Touareg organization, the Coordination of United Movements and Fronts of Azawad (MFUA), and participating in the signing of the peace agreement that ended the conflict. Minister Sidi then participated in a DDR program himself. He later helped run Mali’s DDR efforts and went on to serve as chief of DDRS at the UN. Minister Sidi will share his perspective on the DDR programming and its application in future conflicts.

Introduction: H.E. Amb. Sylvie Lucas, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

Minister Mohamed Zahabi Ould Sidi
Minister for National Reconciliation and Development of the North, Mali
**15:00 - 16:25 DDVE in the Context of Offensive Operations**

Often UN peace operations are deployed into situations in which there is no peace to keep. DDR programming is increasingly employed before a peace process has been completed, and sometimes before one has even started. DDR programs thus operate contemporaneously with offensive operations led by the host state, regional organizations, or others. This new dynamic raises questions about the viability of DDR programming in ongoing conflicts: Do offensive operations serve as a stick to coerce participation in DDR programs or do they undermine participation? Is the situation more nuanced: is the problem contemporaneous offensive operations or just unsuccessful ones? If offensive operations are seen as undermining DDR objectives, should the UN pursue DDR programming in ongoing conflicts, and if so, how can it do so effectively?

**Moderator: (TBC)**

**Major General Adrian Foster MBE**, UN Deputy Military Advisor

**Dr. Desmond Molloy**, Programme Director, Nippon Foundation, Myanmar Liaison Office

**Representative of the African Union**

**Mr. Sam Ibok**, Director, Africa I Division, UN Department of Political Affairs

**16:25 - 16:35 Coffee Break**

**16:35 - 18:00 Principled Engagement Issues in DDR Programming**

The challenges and tensions laid out in previous panels lay the ground work for this session on practical engagement. This panel will deal with questions such as:

- When do voluntary DDR processes take on the character of involuntary detention, and what legal and practical implications flow?
- How can the UN manage the tension between upholding human rights and international DDR standards and ensuring access to nationally-run DDR programs?
- How DDR efforts impact peace processes in venues from South Sudan to Mali?
- And how DDR and management of extremist fighters impacts the humanitarian sector?

**Moderator: (TBC)**

**Dr. Bruce Oswald CMC**, Associate Professor and Director of the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law in the Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne

**Representative of the UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**
Naz Modirzadeh, Director, Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict (PILAC)

Representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) (TBC)

Representative of UNICEF (TBC)

18:00 - 18:30 Wrap Up – Final Thoughts

Minister Mohamed Zahabi Ould Sidi, Minister for National Reconciliation and Development of the North, Mali

Mr. Simon Yazgi, Section Chief, Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration Section (DDRS), DPKO

Other speakers TBC.