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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 the**



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THE GOVERNMENT
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Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York

4 June 2015, 9:00-18:00

9:00 - 9:30

Welcoming Remarks

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

H.E. Ms. Sylvie Lucas, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Luxembourg to the United Nations

Mr. Dmitry Titov, Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations Office of the Rule of Law and Security Institutions

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, New York

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: **Mr. Abdiaziz Shire**, Director of Counterterrorism and Maritime Security, Ministry of Internal Security, Somalia

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: **Mr. Sebastian von Einsiedel**, Director UNU Centre for Policy Research

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

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

Dr. Jehangir Khan, Director UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (TBC)

Dr. Siobhan O'Neil, DDVE Project Manager, United Nations University

13:00-15:00 **Lunch Break**

15:00 - 16:00 **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: **Mr. James Cockayne**, Head of Office, United Nations University, New York

Major General Adrian Foster MBE, UN Deputy Military Advisor

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

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, Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations (TBC)

16:00 - 16:15 **Coffee Break**

16:15 - 17:30 **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: **Mr. Arthur Boutellis**, former DDR Deputy Director, MINUSMA, and Non-resident Advisor, IPI

Representative, UN Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (TBC)

Mr. Ernesto Granillo, Advisor and Spokesperson, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Ms. Naz Modirzadeh, Director, Harvard Law School Program on International Law and Armed Conflict (PILAC)

Mr. Ibrahim Sesay, Child Protection Specialist in Emergencies, UNICEF

17:30 - 18:00 **Wrap Up – Final Thoughts**