

**Countering the Narrative & Ideologies of Terrorism**  
**UN Security Council**  
**H.E. Dr. Abdusalam H. Omer**  
**Minister of Foreign Affairs and Investment Promotion**  
**The Federal Republic of Somalia**  
**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

**Mr. President, Ladies and Gentleman and Dear colleagues,**

The Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia welcomes this timely debate organised and chaired by Egypt on Countering Violent Extremism.

Violent Extremism is an issue which is truly dangerous and needs to be countered effectively and quickly.

It is a threat causing suspicion, hatred and division across the world.

It is also fuelling many of the wars and humanitarian crises across the globe which are perpetuated by the lack of a political solution and the rise of radicalised foreign fighters.

The Government of Somalia welcomes the Secretary General's call to action and unity on the issue of Countering Violent Extremism.

Our Government is working across society to counter extremism in Somalia and we are partnering with the UN and other key stakeholders including the Arab League, OIC, African Union, IGAD, the Anti-Daesh Coalition and individual partner nations to overcome this evil.

Countering Violent Extremism is indeed a key challenge in our time. Where once people had to cross borders to radicalise and divide society with mindless violence, they just need to click a button on their computer today.

This brings the threat of radicalisation closer to each home, street and nation in the world.

This is why we must all work together as a community of nations to formulate and execute a coherent and responsive plan which safeguards our citizens and deals an ideological blow to the extremism that has caused so much misery and instability.

Confronting Violent Extremists requires a combination of good governance, respect for the rule of law and the promotion of the ideals of peace so that we can show the better alternative to those at risk of radicalisation.

Given the present and fluid nature of the threat, it is everybody's job to work together to put effective responses into practice.

Governments, civil society, religious leaders and the business community must join hands at a local, national and international level to end radicalisation so that one of the major forces fuelling Violent Extremism can be extinguished.

Despite the misinterpretation of Islam by violent extremist, a central belief in Islamic teaching must be used to defeat their fraudulent ideas. This is tolerance and inter-faith dialogue and education.

Islamophobia is also as extreme and dehumanising as other forms of extremism and must be challenged and defeated collectively.

Currently in Somalia we are confronting Violent Extremism with genuine religious education, amnesty for those seeking to return from radicalisation and educating our people about the evils of radicalisation and Violent Extremism.

We are also collaborating with partners and stakeholders to exchange knowledge and formulate best practices. Furthermore, our Draft National Security Plan outlines Countering Violent Extremism as a priority and this is further evidence of our Government's commitment to addressing this crucial issue purposefully.

As more and more AlShabaab fighters return from the violent wilderness into Government hands and their communities, we are confident that the Somali strategy on Countering Violent Extremism will continue to become steadily more successful, especially, as we make further political, security and economic developmental gains nationally.

**I Thank You Mr. President.**