

- In some contexts, certain communities, such as Christians, are targeted in addition to that of the State.
- In most, the instrumentalization of longstanding socio-economic and other grievances paired with approaches that offer alternative governance is particularly challenging.
- The groups' operations and recruitment cut across several States and regions. The increased cross-border connections and movements point to the exploitation of existing vulnerabilities and demand responses that cater to these regional dimensions.

Excellencies, distinguished participants,

Notwithstanding comprehensive strategies or action plans, security and military-led responses continue to dominate efforts and to cause concern.

- On the one hand, over securitized approaches squeeze communities; and in some instances, military offensives against ISIL-affiliated groups have apparently prompted reprisal attacks against civilians.
- On the other, due to the prevailing insecurity, over-stretched militaries are also asked to perform tasks outside their usual mandate: such as making arrests, collecting evidence and cooperating closely with criminal justice authorities.
- In some cases, the military has taken the initiative to lead rehabilitation programmes.
- While circumstances may continue to necessitate the expanded role of the military, it has, to some extent, coloured the way in which such efforts are perceived and accepted by communities, underlying the call for more comprehensive solutions.

While recognizing progress, civil society representatives also expressed dissatisfaction with criminal justice aspects.

- Lack of resources and capacity, as well as heavy-handed efforts, impeded its effectiveness.
- In other cases, where justice was not advanced as part of a response to terrorism, this too raised concerns. Where terrorist violence is ongoing, efforts aimed primarily (or only) at reintegration were considered premature and inadequate.

Madam Chairperson, Excellencies, dear colleagues,

This is just a sample of the rich and nuanced perspectives shared by civil society.

We speak often about the benefits of a whole of society approach. Here we have an excellent opportunity to take advantage of their knowledge.

I would certainly commend the [full report](#) to you and urge consideration of the views contained therein.

Thank you.