

By LTC Ibrahim Naeem,
Director, National Counter Terrorism Centre.

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Thank you, Excellency,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!
Assalam Alaikum, good morning.

I am LTC Ibrahim Naeem, Director at NCTC.

counter terrorism and violent extremism in this important forum. I would like to give a very brief overview of the national approaches and progresses made in the area of counter terrorism in the last few years.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen!

The Maldives has long remained a peaceful and harmonious nation, often referred to as Paradise on Earth. However, as His Excellency President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih have

of radicalization and violent extremism by worsening the socio-political, socio-economic and security environment, with extremists stepping up propaganda effort to target an audience under lock-down. Therefore, timely decisions and concrete actions to mitigate, contain, and degrade as well as to

The effort to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism, is conducted in two distinct prongs; namely, the kinetic response which is the traditional military and security responses, and the soft approach which focuses on preventing and countering violent extremism. The kinetic response is driven by the National Terrorism Response Plan, endorsed by the government in 2020, and is coordinated by the Counter Terrorism Steering Committee. Joint Inter Agency Operation Center was established in 2021 to spearhead the Kinetic Response in a well-established multi-agency setting.

To understand the trends and patterns of the threats, and the driving factors of violent extremism in the Maldives, we conducted the Baseline Study on radicalization, which provided a comprehensive picture of the threat environment across the Maldives and a broader anatomy of the narratives used to spread the extremist ideology. Further assessments conducted in collaboration with universities and other stake holders include,

Builders and Agents of Change in the Maldives. These important studies that have shed light on the broad spectrum of issues affecting the society. These studies have guided the multi-agency effort in preventing and countering violent extremism.

Based on the findings, various outreach and intervention programs are being initiated, especially targeting island communities and vulnerable demographical segments. In these programs, special importance is given to local community leadership, the education sector, women and youth leaders as well as civil society organizations. These programs are aimed at countering extremist ideologies, bringing about societal and attitudinal change, promoting the true message of Islam and campaigns for fostering resilience and building patriotic, cohesive and peace-loving communities.

Being a small nation with limited resources, we strongly believe that the fight against terrorism and violent extremism cannot be won without international collaboration and cooperation. Therefore, strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation and collaboration remain a critical pillar of our fight against terrorism and violent extremism to keep Maldives moderate, tolerant, peaceful and harmonious Islamic nation.

Thank you.