

## WORKING GROUP 2: TRACKING THE ROOT CAUSES OF TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM; A FOCUS ON YOUTH EDUCATION AND YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

### 1. CONTEXT:

The inter-linkage between development and peace needs to be recognised; one of the lessons learnt from the MDGs was that there can be no peace without development and no development without peace; Countries in conflict made the least progress in MDG achievement and gains were reversed in countries where conflicts erupted.

Recognising this, the SDGs underline 5 key issues (5Ps) underpinning the agenda

- People
- Prosperity
- Planet
- Peace
- Partnerships

The issue of terrorism and violent extremism needs to be looked at within the broader context of global peace and security with particular emphasis on the root causes

- Perceptions are radically different in different parts of the world
- Peace and security cannot be addressed in isolation of the broader issues of sustainable development; especially issues of poverty, inequality etc. , No one left behind is a principle that underpins the SDGs
- Democratic space, governance, inclusion/ marginalisation, voice and participation and capacities of national institutions are key determinants

### 2. YOUTH EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

- Global youth employment is about 13% now compared to prefinancial crisis levels of 11.7%
- Still there are 73.3 million unemployed youths
- Youth employment declined globally by 1.4% in the last 5 years but in sub-saharn africa the decline has been between 0 and 0.5% and in some cases negative
- More young people in education but face a difficult labour market
- 45% of the global youth labour force are either not working or working poor

### 3. STRATEGIC FOCUS MOVING FORWARD

- Development planning needs to recognise these critical youth issues especially in Africa; **Harness the demographic dividend**; 65% of population are under 35 yet there is little attention to youth issues in national development plans. Youth ministries are often combined with and overshadowed by sports components of the ministries; no comprehensive strategies, and often under funded, lack coherence with sector development plans; job creation should be prioritised in national development plans and

education and training move away from conventional forms of education and tailored towards labour market

- Policy coherence; education policies not in sync with employment policies, countries should ensure implementation of goal 8 of the SDGs and endeavour to achieve the target on youth employment
- Youth not part of decision making and therefore their voices often not heard or acted upon; with technological advancement now, there is a huge generational gap and therefore the need for inter-generational dialogue for better understanding of youth issues and concerns

#### 4. CONCLUSION

- Violent Extremism and terrorism among young people is fuelled by the loss of hope for a better future; with no light at the end of the tunnel, young people have little aspire to in the future; spend time and money on education and at the end you cant have a job, you have a job and you hardlt even can afford tolive a decent life. So they can therefore be easily tempted into something that looks to be alternative especially when there is a sense of hopelessness, no one cares about their plight; its better than nothing. Not entirely their fault but others capitalising on this for political, religions and other reasons.
- Parliamentarians have a key role to play in itigating the risks to youth engagement in violent extremism and terrorism; as representatives of the people you need to ensure that youth voices are heard and acted upon through sustained dialogue, appropriate legislation