

Intervention by Saeida Rouass, Senior Programs Officer, Global Center on Cooperative Security

**At the Side-Event on Good practices for Managing Violent Extremist Prisoners: Preventing
Radicalisation to Violence While Promoting Disengagement and Rehabilitation
19 June, UN Headquarters, New York**

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Dear excellencies, colleagues, and partners,

Thank you to the organizers for facilitating this important discussion and providing the Global Center on Cooperative Security an opportunity to share our experiences.

I would like to share some lessons learned from the Global Center's longstanding partnerships with the prison services of Morocco, Indonesia, and Kenya.

The Global Center has partnered with these prison services in building the capacity to counter violent extremism while upholding the human rights of prisoners through staff-wide sensitisation training, advanced training for staff working directly with violent extremist prisoners, and providing technical assistance to specialist staff such as psychologists and those working in women's prisons.

Training programs targeting prison staff require collaboratively developed curriculums that take into account the working environments and prison conditions within which staff work to ensure applicability of learning to professional practice.

They also requires building inclusive domestic training teams with appropriate understandings of international good practices and human rights standards and the didactic skills to deliver trainings so that prison staff are able to identify with trainers as equals and colleagues.

This is why we always work through a training-of-trainers model in partnership with the national prison staff training institutions. For example, in Kenya, we have identified, trained, and certified 80 prison staff officers to deliver an awareness raising course to their peers, resulting in the training of all 30,000 prison officers and integration of this training into the new recruits' curriculum.

A significant lesson learnt is the need to create a safe educational space within which prison staff feel comfortable to air concerns and interrogate the specific assumptions, bias, and misconceptions that may shape the treatments of violent extremist prisoners, so they critically consider how they interact with this category of prisoner and identify potential changes in attitude and conduct.

Finally, it is important that service-wide training is accompanied by specialist assistance, such as the work we are undertaking with prison psychologists in Morocco, helping them to establish standardized approaches to risk assessment, therapeutic provision, and rehabilitation interventions for violent extremist prisoners.

All of this requires the development of long-term partnerships with prison services built on trust, transparency, and commitment to meaningful change. Thank you.
