



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SECURITY COUNCIL
2022 - 2023

Ministerial briefing

The Values of Human Fraternity in Promoting and Sustaining Peace

14 June, 2023



Introduction

On 14 June 2023, during its presidency of the Security Council, the UAE will hold a high-level signature Briefing on the theme ‘The Values of Human Fraternity in Promoting and Sustaining Peace’ under agenda item “Maintenance of International Peace and Security”. The event will explore the impact of intolerance, hate speech and incitement to hatred, racism and other manifestations of extremism in exacerbating threats across the peace continuum, but also the role that the values of human fraternity, tolerance and peaceful coexistence can play in promoting and sustaining peace.



Background

Over the past two decades, the international community has developed a comprehensive prevention architecture to assist Member States to address threats to international peace and security. However, existing measures have not succeeded in addressing intolerance and extremism as drivers of conflict. The world is facing the highest number of violent conflicts since the Second World War, with two billion people living in places affected by conflict. Intolerance, hate speech, and extremism are major threat multipliers that may drive the outbreak, escalation, and recurrence of conflict.

Intolerance can lead to the outbreak of conflict by creating divisions between people. Hate speech can be used to dehumanize entire groups of people, creating a climate of fear and mistrust that can cause violence, exemplified by the Rwandan genocide in 1994. It can further escalate conflict by radicalising individuals and groups, instigating cycles of retaliation, and fuelling intercommunal violence. Extremists have exploited the internet and social media to promote divisive propaganda, spreading disinformation, hate speech, and conspiracy theories, resulting, in some countries, in violence against minorities. Intolerance, hate speech and other manifestations of extremism can also undermine peacebuilding in post-conflict situations by undermining trust, driving exclusion, and inhibiting dialogue. This was demonstrated in the wake of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-1995) where the prevalence of intolerance impeded peacebuilding efforts.

There is clearly an urgent need to address intolerance and extremism more effectively before violence and conflict arise in the first place.

Given that the international community today faces a more complex, diffuse and dynamic threat landscape, it is important for the United Nations to adapt its efforts to better support Member States in mitigating these threats, managing risk, building resilience and averting the outbreak of conflict. Prevention strategies must be recalibrated to reflect this pressing reality. This must include the perspectives of those most impacted, particularly women and youth. Addressing intolerance, hate speech and extremism requires exploring the impact of these phenomena throughout the peace continuum, encompassing conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and sustainable development. This entails policy discussions involving communities of practice that have hitherto mostly operated in silos.



Objectives

This event seeks to raise awareness of the pivotal role that the values of human fraternity can play in promoting and sustaining peace and preventing intolerance and extremism. It builds on the ‘Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together’ document, signed by Pope Francis and Grand Imam Ahmed Al-Tayeb in February 2019, and UN General Assembly Resolution 75/200 (2020) which acknowledged that ‘tolerance, pluralistic tradition, mutual respect and the diversity of religions and beliefs promote human fraternity.’

The event also presents an opportunity for Member States to renew their commitments to preventing conflict and promoting and sustaining peace, including by fostering a more comprehensive understanding of how peacebuilding, sustainable development and societal resilience can contribute to peace and security. This recognition of the importance of prevention resonates with the vision outlined in the Secretary-General’s ‘Our Common Agenda’¹ and articulated in the 2016 twin resolutions of the UN General Assembly and Security Council on peacebuilding and sustaining peace.²

A critical step in supporting and strengthening the UN’s peace and security architecture will be to consider how the Security Council can better address the multiple challenges posed by intolerance and extremism. However, in seeking to address the broad spectrum of extremism and its potential impact on the peace continuum, the event aims to expand the discussion beyond a narrow association with terrorism and towards

¹ Report of the Secretary-General to the Seventy-fifth Session of the General Assembly 75/982 (2021)

² General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016)

understanding the full breadth of the potential threats associated with intolerance, hate speech and extremism.

The threats posed by intolerance and extremism cannot be mitigated through a single method, actor or solution, but require considering a range of solutions spanning several policy areas, including education, gender equality, social cohesion, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, among many others. This event aims to strengthen efforts of the United Nations entities, Member States and actors from across society on the approaches and measures that can be deployed to address the drivers of intolerance and extremism. This includes taking stock of the insights gained from the UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech (2019), as well as the role of religious leaders, women and youth in strengthening resilience against intolerance and extremism.



Guiding Questions

- How does intolerance, hate speech, racism and other manifestations of extremism influence and drive the outbreak, escalation, and recurrence of conflict within the mandate of the Security Council?
- What gaps exist in the current UN peace operations and peacebuilding mechanisms to address conflict exacerbated by hate speech, intolerance, racism, and other manifestations of extremism?
- How can the values of human fraternity, tolerance and peaceful coexistence contribute to strengthening societal resilience and to promoting and building peace in post-conflict situations?
- How can we strengthen the role of religious and community leaders, including women leaders, to promote tolerance, coexistence and prevent the abuse of religion?
- What measures and approaches can the international community, including the Security Council, take to address intolerance, hate speech and promote reconciliation and peacebuilding in conflicted affected societies?
- Are there regional models that can be looked to as models of good practice in effectively addressing intolerance, racism, extremism, and their root causes?
- How can civil society and the private sector engage with relevant partners in developing strategies that promote the values of tolerance and human fraternity in support of strengthening peace and security?



Format

The meeting will be chaired by a UAE Minister. Briefings will be delivered by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. António Guterres, His Eminence, the Grand Imam of al-Azhar, Sheikh Ahmed Al-Tayeb, The first Bishop of Rome and Sovereign of the Vatican, His Holiness, Pope Francis, and the President of the Imam Association for Youth and Peace, Latifa Ibn Ziaten (TBC).

