



CTED/UN-Women Research Symposium

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 18 July 2018

I. Background

1. In its resolution 2242 (2015), the Security Council requests CTED, in collaboration with UN-Women, to conduct gender-sensitive research and collect data on the drivers of radicalization for women and the impacts of counter-organizations in order to develop targeted and evidence-based policy and programming responses. In accordance with the Council's request, UN-Women held a joint research symposium at United Nations Headquarters on 18 July 2018.

2. The symposium was attended by around 20 researchers, including academics conducting research commissioned by UN-Women, members of [_____](#), and other eminent researchers and academics to discuss emerging trends and research findings in this area. The symposium also offered an opportunity for CTED, UN-Women and the participating researchers to identify remaining research gaps and discuss options for future cooperation.

II. Summary of discussions

3. The discussions focused on the gender dimensions of (i) radicalization and recruitment; and (ii) prevention and countering violent extremism (CVE). The participants presented their respective research on these topics and discussed insights from the wider body of research on women, peace and security.

Scope of the phenomenon

4. It was noted that women had historically engaged in terrorism, including in leadership and combat roles. They had also performed a range of other support functions and been victims of terrorism. The extent to which the current mobilization of women in the context of the foreign and their participation in terrorist activity was unclear. The FTF phenomenon had not been sufficiently analysed, and data was too scarce to draw any firm conclusions. Nonetheless, new research, based on a global dataset of 41,490 international citizens, from 80 countries, who had become affiliated with ISIL in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, showed that 4,761 (13 per cent)

were women and 4,640 (12 per cent) were minors.¹ However, the significant lack of data for many countries suggested that there were significant gaps in real figures for women and minors globally.

included the use of sexual slavery and the complete subjugation of women as recruitment tools. With regard to counter-narratives, some participants called for a global strategic approach, while others cautioned against the inherent tendency of such narratives to reduce a highly complex reality to simplified black-and-white world views. If counter-narratives were indeed to be deployed, they must be conveyed by credible messengers and take the local context fully into account. For women,

IV. CTED/UN-