

**DRAFT RESOLUTION ON AALCO PRINCIPLES AND GUIDELINES TO
COMBAT VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND ITS MANIFESTATIONS**

The Asian-African Legal Consultative Organization at its Fifty-Fifth Annual Session,

Recalling its resolution on “Violent Extremism and Terrorism (Legal Aspects)” (AALCO/RES/54/S9) adopted at the Fifty-Fourth Annual Session, 2015,

Mindful of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter,

Recollecting the UN General Assembly Resolution—“A World against Violent Extremism” (A/RES/68/127) adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013, as well as UN Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) on the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters and UN Security Council Resolution 2199 (2015) on obligations to prevent financing of terrorists groups,

Acknowledging instruments adopted, to combat terrorism, at the international level by the United Nations, as well as at the regional level by organizations such as the African Union, the Association of South East Asian Nations, and the Organization of Islamic Countries,

Defining “Violent Extremism” as the instigation or support of acts of violence through the malicious invocation or propagation of religious teachings, faith, or any other beliefs conducive to intolerance or hatred in the pursuit of ideological, political or other goals,

Acknowledging that the manifestations of acts of violence instigated by violent extremism may, *inter alia*, include serious crimes such as acts of terrorism, war crimes, or crimes against humanity,

Defining “Violent Extremist Groups” as groups of persons engaged in the organized or widespread practice of violent extremism,

Noting the adverse effects of violent extremism on international peace, security and stability on a global level, which is particularly keenly felt in the Asian and African regions,

Gravely concerned about the increasing brutality of acts perpetrated by extremist groups on civilians, particularly women and children in diverse parts of the world, as well as the escalation in attacks on nationals of Member States,

Observing that violent extremism constitutes a contravention of human rights and also constitutes an attack on the primacy of the rule of law as well as on the international legal order,

Reaffirming their commitment to their particular obligations under international law relating to international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and international criminal law, as well as their particular commitments and obligations under sectoral conventions on terrorism to prevent, suppress, investigate and prosecute crimes perpetrated by extremist groups,

Reiterating that there is no justification for violent extremism, whatever the motivation,

Acknowledging the threat of radicalization in its violent forms, and the role of violent extremist groups and individuals in the process of radicalization,

Recognizing the complex and volatile nature of the phenomenon of violent extremism, and the need for a comprehensive, cooperative, and coordinated solution to the problems posed by this phenomenon,

Hereby adopts the following Principles and Guidelines with the purpose to combat violent extremism in the Asian-African region:

I. Principles

Member States of AALCO should:

1. *Adhere* to the principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and to other principles of international law.
2. *Respect* the sovereignty, sovereign equality, political independence and territorial integrity of all States, particularly while combating violent extremism.
3. *Refrain*, in their international relations, from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other States.
4. *Refrain* from intervening in matters within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, or in the political, social or cultural system of any State.
5. *Refrain* from organizing, instigating, assisting, financing or participating in acts of civil strife or terrorist acts in another State. or acquiescing in organized activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts.

6. *Endeavour* to settle their international disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Charter.
7. *Endeavour* to hold non-State actors accountable for the commission of war crimes and crimes against humanity.
8. *Denounce* the illegitimate and unlawful acquisition of territory through violent means and the efforts to disintegrate States by violent extremist groups.
9. *Cooperate* in the promotion of universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, and in the elimination of all forms of racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious discrimination.
10. *Recognize* that the practice of violent extremism cannot be justified by the teachings of any religion, faith, or other ideology.
11. *Recognize also* that violent extremism cannot be associated with any one race, religion, sect, nationality, culture, ethnicity, or any other such affiliation, and that the threat of violent extremism cannot be used as justification for the arbitrary targeting of, or discrimination against, members of any such affiliation.

II. Guidelines

Member States of AALCO agree to:

1. *Cooperate* to identify the root causes of violent extremism and the drivers of radicalization, taking into account all elements leading to their emergence and spread, and take measures to address them.
2. *Abide* by their international and domestic human rights obligations in taking measures to protect the fundamental human rights of all persons, particularly their right to life, liberty, equality, religion and free speech, and the fundamental freedom from the arbitrary and unlawful infringements.
3. *Promote* the values of equality, diversity and tolerance for persons belonging to all races, religions, ethnicities, nationalities and cultures at the domestic, regional, and international levels.
4. *Amend or Adopt* legislation to suppress and counter harmful propaganda that instigates violence, xenophobia, racism and religious hatred.
5. *Coordinate* efforts, through the building of bilateral and multilateral intelligence, information, and knowledge-sharing networks to identify violent

extremist groups and individuals, monitor their activities, and provide options to counter the threat posed by them.

6. *Refrain* from committing or acquiescing in any acts aimed at organizing, supporting or financing violent extremist groups, or from inciting violent extremism or terrorism.
7. *Prevent* groups and individuals engaged in acts of violent extremism from finding safe havens within their territories.
8. *Criminalize* the existence of violent extremist groups and membership in such groups.
9. *Suppress* the funding of violent extremist groups, through illegal means such as, *inter alia*, money laundering and the trafficking of artifacts, as well as the conduct of trade and commerce with such groups, by introducing and enforcing necessary legal measures.
10. *Institute* legal and executive frameworks to avert the activities of violent extremist groups and individuals, and limit the influence of these groups and individuals.
11. *Recognize* the impact of the use of the internet as a tool for radicalization, for the propagation of violent extremist ideologies, for recruitment to violent extremist causes, and for the incitement of violence, in order to adopt internet governance legislation, while also protecting the internet's status as an integral platform for the peaceful exchange of knowledge, ideas and opinions.
12. *Take* appropriate measures to prosecute crimes constituting manifestations of violent extremism, as well as effect prosecution through extradition under bilateral and multilateral treaties, judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance.
13. *Recognize* the need for the de-radicalization of violent extremists in order to counteract the threat of radicalization, and take measures, in accordance with national laws and regulations, to effect de-radicalization through, *inter alia*, rehabilitation and reintegration of prisoners.
14. *Cooperate* to expedite the negotiation and conclusion of the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism taking into account the urgent need to strengthen the international legal framework aimed at combating terrorist acts as manifestations of violent extremism.

15. *Take* all necessary measures toward the implementation of international anti-terrorism obligations, where appropriate, into domestic and regional legal systems.
16. *Cooperate and participate* in the creation, if necessary, of regional or inter-regional instruments to combat violent extremism and its manifestations.