



Capacity-Building Workshop on Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education in West Africa and the Sahel

Concept Note
9-11 May 2017
Dakar, Senegal

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Background

There is an increasing importance of the prevention of violent extremism through education (PVE-E) as evidenced by UNESCO Executive Board decision in 2015, in which Member States expressed their collective commitment to PVE-E and requested UNESCO to support capacity building of key stakeholders (197 EX/Decision 46), as well as UNGA Resolution A/70/L.55 of 1 July 2016, "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review" and the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism issued by the UN Secretary-General in 2015.

The Secretary General of the Francophonie, Her Excellency Mrs Michaëlle Jean, pays particular attention to the fight against radicalization and to the prevention of violent extremism through education and works for combined efforts of partner organizations to combat this scourge.

UNESCO has been working in the area of PVE-E drawing from its longstanding commitment to peace and human rights education, and more recently, to global citizenship education (GCED), which aims to nurture respect for all, building a sense of belonging to a common humanity and helping learners become responsible and active global citizens.

This workshop is organized based on a longstanding partnership between UNESCO and the *Organisation internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF), which is reinforcing its action on PVE, notably in the context of the "Free Together/*Libres ensemble*" platform, launched by OIF to give a voice to young people to express their views on citizenship, freedom, diversity, living together, etc. through social media and education, as well as cultural, economic and artistic activities.

UNESCO's work includes developing education resources such as (i) a Teachers' Guide on managing classroom discussions in relation to the PVE; (ii) a Policy Guide on PVE for education policy makers, to support national efforts to integrate GCED in their education systems; (iii) a Clearinghouse on GCED including resources relevant to PVE-E, hosted by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre for International Understanding (APCEIU).

These resources were presented to Member States and experts from all regions on the occasion of the *International Conference on the Prevention of Violent Extremism through Education: Taking Action* (New Delhi, September 2016), organized by UNESCO with the UNESCO Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Education for Peace and Sustainable Development (MGIEP). OIF participated in and supported this conference.

The regional capacity-building workshop on the prevention of violent extremism through education, jointly organized by the UNESCO family and OIF, will mainly be sourced from UNESCO materials as well as those for youth promoted by OIF. This workshop is a follow-up to a similar initiative for education stakeholders of sub-Saharan Africa organized by UNESCO, through its International Institute for Capacity Building in Africa (IICBA), which took place in Addis Ababa in February 2017.

Goal:

To strengthen the capacities of education policy makers and teacher educators, mainly in formal education settings, but also involving (though to a limited extent) those working in non-formal and informal educational settings, to design and implement relevant and effective policies and practices that contribute to the prevention of violent extremism and eventually to sustainable peace in countries of West Africa and the Sahel region.

Specific objectives:

- Build a shared understanding of key concepts and priority areas of intervention as regards education policy, curriculum and teacher education in countries of West Africa and the Sahel.
- Promote policies, curricula and pedagogical approaches that help build learners' resilience to violent extremism and nurture a culture of peace.
- Create a network of policy makers and teacher educators to facilitate the continuous exchange of proven experiences, lessons and good practices in the region.

Expected Results:

- Policy makers and teacher trainers are provided with relevant information and capacity to fully harness education's potential to prevent violent extremism through necessary reforms and measures.
- Initial country roadmaps discussed and outlined for integration of the prevention of violent extremism into education policies and practices, starting with curricula and teacher education.
- A regional partnership and network established to support the exchange and implementation of activities conducive to preventing violent extremism through education.

Method:

- Plenary presentations and discussions
- Small group discussions

Date and place of the workshop:

The training workshop will take place at UNESCO Office in Dakar (Senegal) from 9 to 11 May 2017.

Scope:

The target of the presentation and discussion will be pre-university education level, mainly post-primary formal education. However, considering the sizeable number of out-of-school children and youth in the region, references to non-formal and even informal educational opportunities will be made and discussed.

Selected parliamentarians and representatives of the civil society, especially youth organizations, will be invited to relate and tap on non-formal and informal educational opportunities and leverages to advance the prevention of violent extremism.

Participants:

Four persons from each Francophone country (including Guinea-Bissau) and three persons from each Anglophone country shall participate.

For each country, participants will include: (i) a high-level official (Permanent Secretary/Secretary General); (ii) a director or senior official in charge of teacher education or curricula; (iii) a senior teacher educator/trainer; and (iv) a parliamentarian or CSO representative (for Francophone countries only).

Participants will prepare prior to their participation to the workshop a two-page country briefing, which includes the following items:

- (i) Brief mapping of national initiatives and experiences in integrating the prevention of violent extremism in education policy and practice;
- (ii) Examples of good/proven practices for building learners' resilience to violence;
- (iii) Future plans and programmes to PVE-E in education policy and practice, including analysis of possible challenges and opportunities.

The costs for the workshop, including support to participation, will be borne by the organizers (UNESCO and OIF).

Countries:

Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone and The Gambia (tentatively)

Working languages:

The working languages of the workshop will be French and English.

Partners:

The training is organized by the UNESCO family (Dakar, Headquarters in Paris, IICBA and APCEIU) and OIF.