"Innovative ways to deal with violent extremism"
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Fourth session: "Terrorism through the eye of the Arab world"

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The most important points that must be taken into account when developing a counterterrorism strategy:

- A counter-terrorism initiative requires the adoption of a comprehensive and multidimensional approach addressing the various political, social, economic, cultural, religious and educational factors, which have contributed to the spread of terrorism; otherwise it will be meant to fail.
- A concerted and unified response to deter terrorism in Arab states is impossible due to domestic divergences. Special anti-terrorism laws could be used by Arab regimes to crackdown on civil liberties under the guise of counter-terrorism for self-serving political ends.
- The need to reach a bare minimum national consensus on counter-terrorism and deradicalization.
- The need to set key benchmarks for political reform and engage in the democratization process, as it was proven that the lack of political participation has fostered increased radicalization among disaffected. He called for establishing a secular rule in Arab countries, urging the Arab elite to be bold in clinging to this crucial plea.
- The need to rethink the stance towards political Islam and abstaining from portraying all mainstream Islamist political movements as terrorists. He slammed the massive campaign waged in Egypt against the Muslim Brotherhood because of their old ideology. He emphasized that during the last decade the Muslim Brotherhood has embraced a more open rhetoric espousing democracy and reform; thereafter they should not be equated with other terrorist organizations.
- The need of stepping the role of societal actors and engage stakeholders in civil society in counter-ideology efforts to alter Islamists' narrative with

persuasive counter-arguments and contribute to remodel their rigid worldview.
- To promote dialogue with these organizations and capitalize on internal fringe in the persuasion process.
- The need to address the chronic economic and marginalization problems, along with bridging the gap between the poor and the rich, fighting corruption and find new horizons for young people enabling them to live in dignity.
- The need to undertake a comprehensive reform of the education system including curricula, as nowadays, the diverse streams of education in the Arab world are considered as a factor for facilitating the process of radicalization, graduating pro-ISIL students as they fail short in building resilience against the groups' impact.
- The need to strengthening religious institutions and reforming curricula in religious school and faculties which according to him, graduate pro-ISIL militants. In Jordan, no one can prevent the building of mosques in the kingdom, and their number have reached 7000, knowing that Jordan has only 2400 credited preachers. We should cast doubt about the affiliation of preachers filling the gap to cover the 7000 mosques.

Finally, we should stress on the responsibility of the West in spurring violent extremism in the region, as one of the things that really does play into the hands of terrorists is the western double standards foreign policy in dealing with Middle Eastern problems.