



Migration, Displacement and Violent Extremism: Confronting Emerging Realities
Stockholm, Sweden, May 24, 2017

Background and motivation

KNOMAD convened its first workshop on Migration and Violent Extremism in Washington DC on 14 September 2016. That workshop identified a number of concrete recommendations, including better concepts, definitions and data; engaging a wider range of stakeholders including the private sector and the media; and examining the discourse in a different geographical and political context. This second workshop in the series responds to these challenges. It takes place in Sweden, a country significantly impacted by Europe's refugee 'crisis', where the challenges of integration are becoming politicized, and where violent extremism has already taken a toll; it presents new empirical evidence; it extends coverage to both migration and displacement; and it includes new perspectives. The workshop is very aptly hosted by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Sweden's leading global think-tank on security issues.

Heightened global tensions over the linkages between migration, displacement, and violent extremism make this workshop timely; the negotiations on a Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, as well as the implementation of UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism, provide an opportunity for the workshop outputs to contribute directly to new policy responses.

Workshop objective

The overall aim of the workshop is to inform policy on the linkages between migration, displacement, and violent extremism. This aim will be achieved via three main objectives, and will include a regionally specific dialogue on Sweden's migration policy and integration strategies toward refugees and asylum seekers fleeing violent extremism (in Syria, Iraq, and Afghanistan in particular). The three main objectives of this second workshop are to:

- (1) Present new empirical evidence, in the form of a background paper and case study;
- (2) Convene diverse perspectives (different academic disciplines, municipal leaders, security and development actors, migration and violent extremism practitioners) to strengthen collaborative networks; and
- (3) Define specific and targeted recommendations which will be widely disseminated after the workshop

Expected outputs

- (1) A policy memorandum on the relationship between migration, displacement, and violent extremism for consumption by all stakeholders;
- (2) A set of specific and targeted recommendations for policymakers working on migration policy and migration-related issues;
- (3) Identification of gaps in research and data that exist within this space, to better inform the KNOMAD work plan for 2017-2018.

Annex 1. Workshop Agenda, May 24, 2017

- 8:30 Welcome Coffee and Refreshments
- 9:00 Introductions and Objectives
Khalid Koser, Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Migration, Security and Development
- 9:15 Violent Extremism and Displacement: Observations from 2016
Speaker: Dr Khalid Koser, Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Migration, Security and Development; Professor Feargal Cochrane, University of Kent (virtual)
This session will provide an overview of the topic and themes outlined in the background paper. Conversation will include a discussion on empirical evidence on linkages between violent extremism and displaced communities, evidence of displaced communities as positive actors in peacebuilding and economic rejuvenation, and discussion on a new conceptual framework for understanding the links between displacement and violence -- as a lens through which to view displacement and violent extremism.
- 10:00 Migration, Integration, and the Critical Role of Cities
Speakers: Jonas Hult, Chief Safety and Security Advisor, City of Malmö; Luise Noring, Expert at European Commission and Senior Research Fellow at Brookings Institution; Rebecca Skellett, Strong Cities Network Manager, Institute for Strategic Dialogue; Kate Sullivan, Coordinator of SIPRI's Peace and Development Programme, SIPRI (moderating)
This panel discussion will explore the critical role cities play in preventing violent extremism and also integrating displaced persons. It will address key challenges municipal leaders face, identify resource gaps that hamper their efforts, and offer lessons learned.
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 11:45 Insights from Non-traditional Actors
Speakers: Charlotte Alfred, Managing Editor, Refugees Deeply; Anna Lekvall, Executive Director, The Pluralism & Dialogue Institute; Martine Zeuthen, Team Leader, STRIVE; Amy E. Cunningham, Senior Advisor, GCERF (moderating)
This presentation will gather insights from a diverse set of actors working directly or indirectly on the migration issue or with displaced communities. Viewpoints from media, psycho-social experts (including mental health workers), anthropologists, and faith-based leaders will be shared.
- 13:00 Lunch Discussion: The Power of Data in Fragile and Conflict Situations
Speaker: Zach Romanow, Philanthropy Engineering, Palantir Technologies
This presentation will explore the power of data in fragile and conflict situations, including how data integration can help anticipate migrant and refugee flows. We will also explore how harnessing data can help in the prevention of violent extremism.
- 14:00 Panel Discussion: European Policy Decisions and Responses to the Refugee Crisis
Speakers: Ian Anthony, Director of SIPRI's European Security Programme; Joanna Goodey, Head of Freedoms and Justice Department, European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights; Kristof Tamas, Head of Secretariat, Migration Studies Delegation (DELMI); Khalid Koser, KNOMAD (moderating)
This panel discussion will explore the rationale behind, and impact of European policy decisions and responses to the refugee crisis.
- 15:30 Recommendations for Policymakers and Next Steps
Speakers: Khalid Koser, Chair of KNOMAD TWG on Migration, Security and Development; Dilip Ratha, Head of KNOMAD, the World Bank
This final session will synthesize findings from the day-long workshop, outline policy implications and interventions (to augment the positive contributions of migrants and alleviate dangerous rhetoric), and identify priority areas of focus for the KNOMAD working group going forward.
- 16:00 Closing Reception – cocktail and hors d'oeuvres