**Corruption, War Conflicts, Violent Extremism and Radicalization threaten Peace**

**Introduction**

The world lives in a hostile environment, violence and greed have cornered the principles and values of good living. ***"The spirit of evil leads us to destruction, and the spirit of evil leads us to disunity, leads us to tribalism, to corruption, to drug addiction, leads us to destruction by fanaticism,"*** points out Pope Francis.

We live immersed in social violence and family violence, social greed that generates instability in daily life, corruption attacks stability, attacks work, against the desire and need to be economically autonomous, attacks our participation in political life. Pope **Francis** defines corruption as *"those 'sucking' swamps that you step on and want to leave, and you take a step and go further inside. Corruption is a swamp. It is the destruction of the human person".* Because corruption is accompanied by arrogance, *"**corruption vitiates your soul and body, and a corrupt man is so sure of himself that he cannot turn back**"*.

A woman who lives in the middle of war conflicts finds herself involved in a corruption plot that makes it impossible to complete the designs of her nature which is to build a family, to give life to another being, to contribute to society.

The pages of the Bible begin with the murder of one brother to another, ***our mission is to overcome the bad feelings that we harbor within us, to improve ourselves and to improve our family and social environment***.  As Pope Francis reflects: *"Life is full of difficulties, but there are two ways of looking at difficulties: either you look at it as something that blocks you, destroys you and stops you, or you look at it as an opportunity"*. It is in this spirit that I have prepared this presentation about the evil that is enveloping the world: ***corruption, armed conflicts, violent extremism and radicalization.***

**I. Corruption**

**Corruption** is the abuse of delegated power by those who have private purposes. Elements that can be highlighted are: **abuse of power; for private purposes (therefore, it does not necessarily benefit the abuser of power, but includes members of his immediate family or friends); a power that has been delegated (which can come from both the private and public sectors).** In one sentence: ***"abuse of power for the purpose of personal enrichment"*** (Transparency International).

Corruption **exacerbates gender inequalities** in society. Women experience and perceive corruption differently from men and are more vulnerable to specific types of corruption, particularly sexual extortion, due to participation in social, political and economic life.

**Africa**

The links between *corruption, land, welfare and prosperity* are evident in Africa. Women work in the fields, owning land is a right ambition. Corruption increases gender disparities, undermines women's livelihoods and status, and ultimately perpetuates poverty. Eight highly sensitive African countries have been identified: **Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Sierra Leone, Uganda, Zimbabwe**.

Without being a war, corruption is a social war that impedes the development of women. The role of land is crucial in ending poverty and hunger, reducing inequality, providing decent work and achieving gender equality that increases food security by reducing poverty.

Corruption comprises 5 Sustainable Development Goals planned for 2030.

- **Goal 1**: End poverty in all its forms throughout the world

- **Goal 2**: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture.

- **Goal 5**: Achieve gender equality and stone all women and girls.

- **Goal 11**: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resident and sustainable.

- **Goal 16**: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.

To own the land is a **real right**, which has two characteristics inscribed: the immediate character of the power that they grant to its holder over it and the **"erga omnes"** opposability, is an exclusive right. To exercise this domain, a title is required, which is a legal act that enables the acquisition of the domain.

To avoid corruption in land ownership is required:

That the administration, documentation and urban planning have a **good system of registration,** and transparent titles or documents of land for the granting.

Corruption is verified:

✓ at the time of land registration, increasing informal tenancy;

✓ when the will of inheritance is not recognized due to the custom that prevents women from inheriting land from their fathers;

✓ in land lawsuits, before unclear laws that require interpretation, or when formal laws vs. customary laws are opposed.

**Urban Planning** requires formalising the tenancy rights of those living in urban settlements. Programs to formalize tenancy rights must be transparent and incorporated, avoiding bureaucratic corruption. Countries need strong legal frameworks and oversight mechanisms to ensure investments in land for the benefit of local people.

*Land is the key asset for the majority of the world's poorest; it represents a guarantee for a future without poverty. Women's ignorance of their own rights is often at the root of lack of ownership.*

**Latin America**

Corruption *affects economic growth, weakens respect for the regulatory framework and diminishes the efficiency of state institutions. It directly affects the equitable distribution of resources among the population, distorts the market, generates income inequality, and even affects social welfare programs either because of their low quality or because of the excessive price agreed upon.*

**Latin America**, has gone through controversial stages, *the conquest of democracy is continuous*. Recently a wave of socialism and corruption has altered the development of the region. Only three of the 22 countries have remained unscathed. *Chile, Costa Rica and Uruguay*. The most important action against democracy has been perpetrated from **Brazil**. The **Odebrecht** company, as **Papa Francisco** points out, is the tip of an iceberg, along with the political power of President Lula, a great socialist. *They have altered democracy by financing candidates, altering the citizen vote and then collecting favours by altering the national economy. This mafia was not discovered in Latin America but in the United States, by a judge, before suspicious banking movements by a client, the Odebreacht company.* The owner of the company, Odebreacht, who is under arrest, confessed as an *effective collaborator*, discovered a system of private interests to achieve political power, even within an international strategy to convert socialist, if not communist, Latin American region. *Public services have become more expensive, affecting the citizen.*

Actualmente, *la confianza en la clase política está en un mínimo histórico, se ha deteriorado la estructura gubernamental y los derechos humanos. Además, la corrupción afecta los derechos de las mujeres, genera inseguridad ciudadana al alterar la estructura gubernamental.*

The corruption of the **judicial system** altered verdicts to the detriment of minors who had been raped and in the case of attempted femicide. The verdicts had a price.

In **Guatemala**, the president was elected with great enthusiasm and confidence for his campaign against corruption. After a short time, his family and friends are involved in corruption cases. As a reaction President Jimmy Morales expelled the Human Rights Representative, under the argument of national sovereignty.

Corruption distorts the vision of service that the state structure has, which is why many want the power to enrich themselves quickly. The state is a booty. Corruption is the prelude to the insurrection movements that lead to civil wars and even to armed conflicts where we all lose.

**Transparency International and Market Research Service** conducted a survey in 2016, in Latin American countries, giving this result:

**1**. Corruption is on the rise in **Brazil, Peru, Chile and Venezuela** (78% and 87%); Argentina and Guatemala (41% and 42%).

**2**. The most corrupt police and politicians are in **Venezuela** (73%), **Paraguay** (69%).

**3**. Governments have a poor performance and do not fight corruption (53%), for **Venezuela and Peru** (76% and 73%), in **Guatemala** only for 35% their government is doing a bad job.

**4**. Almost a third of public service users paid bribes, which is 90 million people in the 20 countries surveyed. **Mexico** and **the Dominican Republic** (51% and 46%).

**5**. The highest rates of bribery are seen in relation to health care and schools.

**6**. Few report corruptions and those who do suffer reprisals. Only 9% of respondents who paid bribes actually reported it to the authorities. 28% suffered negative consequences for reporting.

**7**. Seven out of ten citizens are willing to support actions against corruption, 70% of citizens have confidence in their actions: **Brazil** (83%); **Costa Rica** and **Paraguay** (both 82%).

The recommendations in the face of this situation are aimed at a **strong political will** to propose a radical change, to **prepare civil society** in the fight against corruption. Governments must involve **civil society** as part of their efforts to fight corruption; **strengthening the judiciary, transparency of the state** is of vital importance, **information** allows to overcome the lack of knowledge as well as, already happening, **eliminate political immunity** in cases related to corruption.

## II. War Conflicts and the Status of Women

**"Nothing is lost in peace. Everything can be lost through war**," said Paul VI before the beginning of World War II. Women, in particular, are called to follow John Paul II's exhortation commemorating the 50th anniversary of the beginning of this bloody war: **"It is necessary to build together the true civilization, which is not based on force, but is the fruit of victory over ourselves, over the powers of injustice, selfishness and hatred, which can disfigure man."** No war is the same as another; each one obeys exceptional situations and can only materialize in a specific space and time. Conflicts affect millions of people and the daily occurrence is the violation of human rights. At the base is this feeling of superiority over others and annihilating them.

**In the different continents we have the following armed conflicts:**

**Myanmar and the persecuted Rohingya ethnicity**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar / Burma) has an estimated population of 51 million on a territory of 675 000 km2. It is the largest country in Southeast Asia. It has lived more than 50 *years of military dictatorship*.

Since March 2011 it has begun a process of democratisation, political prisoners have been released, freedom of expression has improved, economic reforms have been initiated. **Myanmar / Burma** still faces important challenges. It needs to ensure sustainable peace with its many armed ethnic groups, as well as violence between Buddhist and Muslim communities in the country. **26% of the country lives below the national poverty line despite growth in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 7.5%.** Natural resources, including their diversity of flora and fauna, are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters and climate change.

The greatest risk to the reform process *is intercommunal violence that apparently began in Rakhine State in 2012* and spread to other parts of the country in early 2013. *In 2015, hate speech and religious intolerance were increasingly used as a political tool to incite hatred. The situation of the stateless Rohingya is delicate with regard to their human rights and the humanitarian issue that has implications for Myanmar's neighbours and the wider region - Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia* - which hosts thousands of Rohingya asylum seekers. Since August 2017, the upsurge in violence in Myanmar has driven more than 600,000 people to **Bangladesh** in search of safety. Entire villages were burned and hundreds of people killed as half a million fled as fast as they could from the **Rakhine** region.

Subsequently, **Myanmar and Bangladesh** agreed to repatriate the Rohingya to their country of origin.

**The European Union** is disbursing **huge funds on gender perspective** and, in particular*, increased participation of girls and women in education, an active and proactive approach to empowering effective female participation in education, including within teachers.*

**Afghanistan**

Since the 1970s, violence has taken over this country. Every day it expands, having become the second most dangerous country in the world and the Afghan people are the second country with the largest refugee population in other countries.

*The situation of women is serious, for 16 years there has been support for gender equality in Afghanistan.* Afghan women have more and more demands, they have improved their access to public services and treatment by their male partners. *Women's networks are flourishing in urban areas, drawing on the experiences of civil society in neighbouring countries, particularly* **Iran***. A gender perspective is being introduced into policy development, as well as the approval of the national programme for women's economic empowerment.* However, the integration of women in decision-making remains limited at both institutional and base levels. At the institutional level, participation is often presented in terms of quotas of seats reserved for women in Parliament.

However, *participation in decision-making is limited; many barriers remain for women. Access to work, health, education and justice, including mistrust and opposition from communities. Efforts and proposals, however, require generational change and prolonged support for Afghan women.*

**Syria**

The war in **Syria** is almost 7 years old, more than 5 million people are refugees outside its borders. *In 2017 many cities like Aleppo were liberated from the Islamic State and their former inhabitants have been able to rebuild their lives. Three conferences have been held in Syria, the last one, in which I participated, was held in April 2018 in Brussels, at the headquarters of the European Commission. Syria is a broken society that lives in terror with the least sustenance.*

Recently, at the United Nations General Assembly, **Federica Mogherini** declared **"No one will win neither war nor peace without a negotiated political solution".** *The Brussels Conference strongly supported the political transition needed to enable the safe return of refugees, providing a stage for Syrian women, youth and civil society to build the country's future.*

*Recently, however, violence and human suffering have increased in Syria, and the military escalation of the parties to the conflict has increased alarmingly*. The civilian population bears the brunt of the suffering caused by the conflict,

including gross, consistent and flagrant violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights, in particular: ***deliberate and indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, continued and informed use of chemical weapons, forced displacement, arbitrary detention, enforced disappearances and torture, including sexual exploitation and abuse and gender violence.*** More than 12 million people have been displaced, including more than 5.6 million refugees living in neighbouring countries and 6.6 million displaced within Syria. Nearly 13.1 million people, almost half of whom are children, are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection within the country.

***The Conference agreed that a greater focus is required to support long-term reform and development in a sustainable manner***. It is essential to support health and education, economic development, job creation and integration into labour markets for both host communities and refugees, especially for vulnerable groups such as women and youth. ***The Conference underlined the essential need to reach out to all children and young people, who will one day play a key role in the recovery and reconstruction of the region, with quality education and skills training***. It expressed support for targeted resilience programming and increased allocations to women and girls. Extremely vulnerable refugees and host communities will continue to need support through cash assistance and improved social protection mechanisms. Resettlement was recognized as an essential protection tool for refugees at higher protection risks and highlighted its importance, along with other legal ways, in providing safe and dignified access to security beyond the immediate region.

**Iraq**

Years of conflict in the country and the offensive to cities like **Mosul** and **Fallujah**, under the control of the **Islamic state**, have made headlines while leaving millions of civilians besieged and forced to flee their homes.

***The military offensive against Da´esh ended on 10 December 2017 and the humanitarian emergency continues with 2.6 million people still internally displaced. The situation of ethnic and religious minorities remains a serious concern.***

***Critical human rights problems persist, especially in the areas of enforced disappearances, prevented or forced returns and destruction of property of internally displaced persons, lack of due process and fair trials, as well as violence related to sexual conflicts.*** The use of the **death penalty** continues, and **torture** continues to be widespread in police detention centres, interrogation cells and prisons. ***Journalists have been harassed and killed, particularly in areas controlled by Da'sh. Accusations of corruption are frequent and impunity prevails***. Lack of transparency, information and government access makes it difficult to assess the magnitude of many of the reported human rights problems.

The European Union follows the policy of protection of civilians in conflict zones, protection of ethnic/religious minorities, national and social reconciliation, independence of the Iraqi High Commissioner for Human Rights, transparent law enforcement and the elimination of gender-based violence. ***Iraq has been requested to adhere to the fundamental principles of international human rights law and to subscribe to the Rome Statute***.

It also supports Prime Minister Al-Abadi in implementing his reform programmes that address widespread corruption and poor public service delivery. **The government's engagement with civil society organisations and local NGOs in drafting laws such as Protection from Family Violence** is a very good result, and changes to the personal status law that would have lowered the marital age for women following external pressure have been rejected.

***The UN Security Council with Resolution 2379 has created an independent body of investigations into Da'esh war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. The aim is to collect evidence.***

**The conflict between Israel and Palestine**

This problem, which dates back to the early 20th century, has left 5 million Palestinian refugees. ***One of the longest lasting historical conflicts while facing a difficult solution.***

***Israel and Palestine are living years of conflict, it seems irreconcilable. However, they will have to find the way to walk together. The international community is working to support civil society on both sides so that, following the***

*example of decades-long wars in European countries, we have come to work together in peace, security and mutual recognition.*

Peacebuilding programmes, projects run by Israeli and Palestinian civil society organisations, these programmes have worked during the most difficult years, sometimes filled with violence, despair and hatred, because people fundamentally want an antidote to violence, they want hope and tolerance.

*The European Union's Peacebuilding Initiative promotes peace, hope and tolerance, opposes extremism, hatred and violence. Peace is both top-down and bottom-up. Learn and get used to working together, as neighbours as well as sharing the city of Jerusalem. Facing problems of all kinds from sanitation, health and city management with environmental methods.*

**Central African Republic**

*An enmity initiated in the 2004 civil war in addition to the peace treaties that were signed in 2007 has caused displacement, reaching 450,000 refugees. Attempts have been made to re-establish peace through elections.*

*The Central African Republic is a country with a Christian majority, but with an important Muslim minority, they lived together in peace until the arrival to power of the armed group Seleka.*

*Religious rhetoric for political purposes was the beginning, according to the UN, towards genocide. The Selena group is made up of: The Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), the Union of Republican Forces, and the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace, as well as mercenaries from Sudan, Niger and Chad. They are mainly of Muslim religion and their targets are Christian neighbourhoods. The counterpart are the Christian defense groups.*

*Sexual violence and child soldiers are added to all the negative consequences of a war.*

**Nigeria**

**It started in 2002. The year 2009 marks the beginning of violence that left more than 3,500 dead and serious economic consequences.** The displacement of Nigerians, fleeing the war, has exceeded one million people, becoming a refugee crisis. Women are the most affected by violent conflicts, however, they are largely excluded from peace-building and conflict resolution processes due to factors such as patriarchy, ignorance and other socio-cultural impediments.

*Projects such as those of the European Union aim to empower mentors in peacebuilding in their communities, as well as to transfer acquired knowledge to other women. One testimony refers to drug use and sexual harassment. The women of Nigeria are convinced "that it is important for women to contribute to the building of peace. The world is changing and development is hindered where there is no peace. They made a silent march calling for change. "After demonstrations and support visits to neighbourhood chiefs and security agents, the places where drugs and illegal substances were sold were closed. In my community, cases of drug abuse and rape have decreased significantly and peace has been restored," says Namiyu Bala (61-year-old peace mentor in Gombe State).*

**South Sudan**

*A civil war started in 2013 with an attempted coup d'état. Food shortages, looting and violence are the characteristics of this tragedy. In 2016, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights presented a report on the increase in sexual violence in the country. The United Nations has verified in five months in 2015, more than 300 cases of rape.* **Sudan** is also the second largest refugee host country in Africa, due to its ongoing internal conflicts, has the second largest population of internally displaced persons in the continent, estimated at 3.2 million. *Some 7.1 million people in Sudan, including many refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons, are in need of humanitarian assistance.*

**Burundi**

*The ethnic conflict between 1993 and 2005, generated a civil war, with more than 300,000 dead, displaced*. In 2015, other acts of violence before the presidential elections, new displacements to *Tanzania or the Democratic Republic of Congo. Women and children are the most affected, together with the Burundian authorities' impediment to the displacement of their citizens, closing borders or installing controls, as well as threats to their freedom of movement.* Burundi is a very fragile state that does not manage to develop due to the high birth rate, it has climate instability problems that aggravate the food situation. The health of mothers and children is in emergency.

**Yemen**

*The civil war of 2015 after a coup d'état in 2014 is the beginning of the war that has widened the gender gap, women, especially rural women and girls, live in the worst conditions.*

*In 2004, Yemen ranked 126 out of 144 countries in the UNDP Gender Development Index, with only 29 % of adult women literate compared to 69% of men. 52% of girls do not complete primary school, compared with 18% of boys.*

*The fertility rate in 2003 was 5.8 children per woman. Early marriage represents another major obstacle to gender equity. Women are confined only to domestic chores and agriculture: more than 70% of agricultural work is done by women.*

Economic decisions and relations with the outside world remain the domain of men. *Customs are maintained and domestic violence is increasing. The lack of female participation at all levels of society will continue to be marginalized and even more in the political arena.*

**Colombia**

After four years of high-level negotiations, the Colombian government and FARC guerrilla rebels signed a peace agreement in November 2016. To implement it, the country must now deploy significant financial resources, institutional and human, to address the inequalities that sustained the conflict. This conflict has lasted five decades.

**Venezuela**

*Venezuela faces a major political, economic and social crisis, with hyperinflation, acute shortages of food, medicine and other basic goods and one of the highest homicide rates in the world*. The opposition has been organizing widespread protests against the increasingly totalitarian policies adopted by Maduro's government. Dozens of protesters have been killed. The July 2017 election of an all-powerful Constituent Assembly closed almost all remaining democratic spaces, leading to widespread condemnation in the region and around the world. The displacement of more than two million Venezuelans to the Latin American bordering countries has been verified and continues.

**Mexico**

*Mexico's judicial institutions are no match for the widespread corruption and powerful transnational cartels that dominate parts of the country.* The years of an over-militarized "war against drugs" and the proliferation of criminal racquets have destabilized the country and its neighbours, forcing thousands of refugees and migrants to risk their lives fleeing through Mexico from "Northern Triangle" to neighbours like Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala. Crisis Group focuses on addressing transnational crime, high-level corruption, trafficking and migration, with a special emphasis on the effect they have on children, women and other vulnerable groups.

### III. Violent Extremism and Radicalization

*Violent extremism is an affront to the purposes and principles of the United Nations. It undermines international peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. No country or region is immune to its effects.*

*The United Nations regards it as a conduit to terrorism. It is considered a clear phenomenon without a clear definition.*

*In recent years, terrorist groups such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (EIIL), Al-Qaida and Boko Haram have shaped the image of violent extremism.*

*With a message of religious, cultural, social intolerance, with the occupation of territory and the use of social media for real-time global communication of their ideas and exploits, it calls into question the common values of peace, justice and human dignity.*

*The spread of violent extremism has further aggravated an unprecedented humanitarian crisis that already extends beyond the confines of a given region. Millions of people have left territories controlled by terrorist groups and violent extremist groups. Migration flows have increased outside and into conflict zones, and include those seeking security and those attracted to the conflict as foreign terrorist combatants, further destabilizing the affected regions. While the Plan of Action has been formulated in this context, its objective is to address violent extremism in all its forms and wherever it occurs.*

*Nothing can justify violent extremism, yet it arises from situations of grievance, real or perceived injustice, the promise of empowerment and radical change (United Nations).*

*Indeed, their messages have been heard by more than 30,000 foreign terrorist combatants from more than 100 Member States to travel to the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, as well as to Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen. With the emergence of a new generation of groups, there is a growing international consensus that such counter-terrorism measures have not been sufficient to prevent the spread of violent extremism. Violent extremism includes a broader category of manifestations and there is a risk that an amalgamation of the two terms will lead to justification for too broad an application of counter-terrorism measures, including against forms of conduct that cannot be described as acts of terrorism.*

*Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) ensures the link between violent extremism and terrorism.*

*Prevention: "violent extremism, which can lead to terrorism" requires collective efforts, including:*

*- the prevention of radicalization,*
*- recruitment and*
*- the mobilization of people towards terrorist groups to become foreign terrorist combatants.*

*The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action follow a practical approach to preventing violent extremism. Each country will define each of the terms according to its own reality.*

*Prevention has four pillars:*

   *a. to address the conditions conducive to terrorism;*

   *b. to prevent and combat terrorism;*

   *c. to enhance the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism, and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; and*

   *d. to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law in the fight against terrorism.*

*Youth in radicalization and how to Recover them*

*Young people, who constitute the majority of the population, are an important resource and must be empowered to contribute to the political and economic development of their societies and nations. To do so, they need a positive vision of their future along with a real opportunity to realize their aspirations and possibilities.*

Last week the **European Parliament's Gender Committee** met with four experts to discuss the issue of radicalisation. The "**capture of our young people**" is done individually, knowing their inclinations, the abductors study young people with tendencies of social activities, those who have been sexually abused, those who have anger and desire for revenge, invite them to adhere to their ideology. It is a treatment based on feelings and ideology.

Use the feelings to lose confidence in other human beings, also towards their parents.

Only parents can recover it by understanding what the promise has been. The Mothers have developed a strategy called the "**Magdalena de Proust**", meaning to achieve emotional contact with their children.

The *Jihadists* have offered them a new community, a sacred grouping. Recover them by resorting to their childish emotions, to micro episodes so that their feelings resurface before being recruited: *their favourite music, their favourite cake, their video of their childhood. Get the emotional reactivation of the child in the young man when he discovers his bond, his relationship, to break the protection he had placed in the jihadist world. The dehumanization of the jihadist goes through the detachment: it is the individual who disappears; it is necessary to recreate his body, his family, his emotions. There are 20% of failures, it is possible to recover a young person not an adult.*

**Gender equality and women's empowerment.**

The empowerment of women is fundamental to achieving sustainable peace, as is considered in the Plan of Action of the United Nations and appears in all the actions of this organization, as well as of the European Union. It is no coincidence that societies with better gender equality indicators are less vulnerable to violent extremism.

**Security Council resolution 2242 (2015)** considers that the protection and empowerment of women should be a central part of strategies designed to counter terrorism and violent extremism. The recommendations are:

a) Incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to prevent violent extremism;

b) Invest in gender-sensitive research and data collection on the role of women in violent extremism, including the identification of factors that lead women to join violent extremist groups and the impact of counter-terrorism strategies on women's lives, in order to develop specific evidence-based policy and programmatic responses;

c) Include women and other underrepresented groups in national law enforcement and security agencies, including terrorism prevention and response frameworks;

d) Develop the capacity of women and civil society groups to participate in prevention and response initiatives related to violent extremism;

e) Ensure that a portion of all funds dedicated to combating violent extremism are intended to projects that address or empower women's specific needs, as recommended in my recent report to the Security Council on women and peace and security.

Quality education that prepares them for life, as is foreseen in the right to education. Education should include the teaching of respect for human rights and diversity, the promotion of critical thinking, the promotion of media and digital literacy, and the development of socio-emotional and behavioural skills that can contribute to peaceful coexistence and tolerance.

Young women and men entering the workforce need our support to access continuing and vocational training resources and to develop their entrepreneurial talents.

**Conclusions**

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