



## International Conference on Youth and Information and Communication Technologies: Preventing Violent Extremism in Cyberspace

Beirut – Lebanon, 17-19 May 2017

### Final Statement

We, the participants of the “International Conference on Youth and Information and Communication Technologies: Preventing Violent Extremism in Cyberspace”, organized by the Lebanese National Commission for UNESCO, in partnership with UNESCO and its Information for All Programme (IFAP), UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut, and the Rotary Club de Beyrouth (1931):

- *Considering* that violent extremism in the cyberspace is a global and multi-faceted phenomenon,
- *Highlighting* that the prevention of violent extremism is a shared responsibility in respect of the principles and universal values enshrined in the United Nations,
- *Answering* the call of the Secretary General of the United Nations and his Plan of Action to prevent violent extremism launched in January 2016,
- *Noticing* the increased dissemination of violent extremist ideas using new means of communication, which are exploited for the purposes of propaganda, recruitment by radical groups and incitement to commit violent acts motivated by hate and intolerance,
- *Emphasizing* that new technologies are also a tool for preventing violent extremism, encouraging a counternarrative on the Internet, citizen education and critical thinking, in support of human rights, dialogue, mutual understanding and tolerance,
- *Reaffirming* the commitment of working to fully achieve the sustainable development goals and objectives adopted under the authority of the United Nations as part of the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

1. *Call on* the states, public and private sectors, civil society to strengthen their cooperation and take the necessary measures to prevent violent extremism in cyberspace,
2. *Invite* the concerned national authorities to adopt and implement strategies and action plans in order to counter violent extremism in cyberspace,
3. *Encourage* academic institutions, institutes and research centers to initiate and develop research programs to identify and address the political, social, cultural, economic and psychological causes of violent extremism,
4. *Call on* governments to encourage media education and digital literacy in order to ensure youth empowerment and protect them against extremist propaganda,
5. *Ask* public and private sectors to facilitate youth participation in innovative digital projects in favor of peace, tolerance and mutual understanding,
6. *Call on* reexamining the content of academic curricula, including religious and civic education, in order to consolidate youth defenses against extremist thoughts,
7. *Invite* UNESCO members and partners to promote a free Internet, oriented towards peace, development and intercultural dialogue.