Global Terrorism Index 2020

Key Findings

➢ Deaths from Terrorism fall by 15% for fifth consecutive year to 13,800

➢ ISIL core diminishes – first year where they caused less than 1,000 deaths since their inception

➢ Far-right terrorism increases 250% in last five years- from low base

➢ Deaths fall in the 4 countries with most deaths

➢ ISIL centre of gravity shifts to sub-Saharan Africa – 7 of 10 largest increases in SSA

➢ ISIL affiliates launch attacks in 27 countries
Key Findings, 2020 GTI

- Terrorism has been on a downward trend since its peak in 2014
- Terrorism deaths decreased by 15.5% between 2018 and 2019

Source: START GTD, IEP Calculations
Deaths from terrorism in Burkina Faso increased six fold in 2019

Countries – Increases in Deaths from Terrorism in 2019

Source: START GTD, IEP Calculations
The Taliban were the deadliest terrorist group for the second consecutive year.
In 2019, the number of terrorism deaths in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa exceeded deaths recorded in MENA.
Deaths from terrorism by decade, 2000-2019

The last decade was the deadliest on record with over 182,000 terrorism deaths, compared to 72,000 in the 2000s.

Source: START GTD. IEP Calculations
Regional distribution of ISIL-related terrorism deaths, 2013-2019

By 2019, less than a third of ISIL deaths from terrorism occurred in the MENA region

Source: START GTD, IEP calculations
Counter-Terrorism and Peace-Building in the Sahel countries
Issues and challenges: interconnectedness of symptoms and causes

- Challenged by armed conflict, economic insecurity and the adverse effects of climate change
- Violent extremism and armed groups as symptoms of deeper unresolved issues
- Drivers of conflict: political, economic, food and migration instability (OCDE)
- Vulnerability from depleted soils and scarcity of resources with impacts on political and economic security
- Change of the conflict dynamics through the recruitment of people in fragile economic conditions
Issues and challenges: interconnectedness of symptoms and causes

- Recession or low economic growth: between -2 and 1 per cent of GDP growth in 2020 worsened by the Covid-19 Pandemic
- Increasing impoverishment in rural areas living off agriculture and suffering from environmental conditions
- Increase in military spending instead of devoting a larger part of the budget to promote economic growth or the survival of the service sector
- Investing in hard security = Short term response
Destabilization of the Sahel countries: the next Afghanistan?

- **Global Peace Index**: Burkina Faso as the greatest deterioration in 2021, Niger and Mali face a slight deterioration due to rising armed groups and conflicts

- **Positive Peace Index**: Low levels of Positive Peace mainly because of the lack of acceptance of the rights of others, bad relations with the neighbouring countries, corruption and the unequal distribution of resources ➔ Targeting the weakest positive peace pillar as a mean to resilience-building

- **Economic Value of Peace**: From 7 to 14 per cent of the yearly GDP mainly in military expenditures that are surpassed by the economic costs of terrorism

- **Ecological Threat Register**: Water shortages in Burkina Faso, food insecurity in Niger, productions destroyed by droughts or floods = degradation of living standards conditions and conflicts for the appropriation of the resources ➔ Resolution through inclusive governance with a local-based approach and a return to the Algiers Accord of 2015 accompanied by a refocus on development