

## *FAWCO UN Report*

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**Program:** Tony Blair Faith Foundation on countering violent extremism through education

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**Speakers:**

Mohammed Loulichki, Chair of the SC CTC and Ambassador of Morocco

Tony Blair, Tony Blair Faith Foundation

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Mohammed Loulichki

SC Resolutions 1373 to end terrorism and 1624 focused on prevention of terrorism and extremism are relevant to the work Tony Blair is doing, which is using education to counter and prevent extremist messages intended to provoke terrorism and violence.

Tony Blair

- Last spoke at the Security Council just after the fall of the Berlin Wall, when the atmosphere was far lighter and optimistic.
- Extremism is often based on a perversion of religious belief. It is particularly entrenched in Asia and Africa and the Far East.
- US, UK and Europe are spending vast amount of money and energy trying to stop terrorism.
- Globalization and technology act to intensify and multiply extremism.
- Extremists organize and indoctrinate on line and in print. They educate young people in their beliefs. They play on fear, which is born of ignorance. Many young people have no idea about people who are different. Extremists play on this lack of understanding.
- Online radicalization is very important. Extremist ideology is very old fashioned but they are very willing to use new technology to achieve their goals.
- In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century education is a security issue. Teaching respect is critical. This must be part of the process of education – it is every bit as important as math and language. We need to recruit, organize and educate with the same passion as the extremists, with a better, clearer message. Coexistence flourishes in environments where education and cultural acceptance are the fundamental pillars of society.
- Education is cheaper than physically fighting terrorism.
- The narrative that we have to put in place is about opportunity and prosperity, not just kindness and peace.
- The Tony Blair Faith Foundation has an education program in 20 countries: Face to Faith. Video-conferences, that include students from different locations and perspectives and faiths, discussing global issues, to give youth mediating and negotiating skills and multi-cultural understanding of challenges.
- Today what we need to mobilize to defeat prejudice. Every government needs establish at least one pilot program to promote cultural understanding. There are many organizations that do excellent work in this area, including the Tony Blair Foundation.
- The root causes of extremism will never be defeated by security measures, only the education of young people can achieve their demise.