

GLOCEPS DIRECTOR'S WELCOME REMARKS DURING
ROUNDTABLE ON 'RADICALIZATION AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM',
SAFARI PARK HOTEL, 5TH APRIL 2023

- *Our Keynote speaker, the Deputy National Security Advisor, IG (Rtd) Joseph Boinnet,*
- *Dr Rosalind Nyawira, Ag. Dir, NCTC,*
- *Our Distinguished discussants, Dr Mustafa Ali, Chairman, Horn Institute, Brig (Rtd) Ahmed Mohamed, Senior Advisor, Horn Institute, and Dr. Edward Maina, Head of Research, NCTC,*
- **GLOCEPS and other NCTC Staff,**
- **NIRUC Staff,**
- *Other Esteemed invited participants (ATPU, Prisons),*
- *Ladies and Gentlemen, Good morning.*

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you all to this roundtable-themed **'Radicalization and Violent Extremism in Nairobi, Kenya'**. This is a jointly organized event by the Global Centre for Policy and Strategy (GLOCEPS) and the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC). GLOCEPS is particularly proud of its partnership with NCTC, which is geared towards strengthening our counter-terrorism capacity for a safer Kenya. We sincerely thank Dr Nyawira for considering GLOCEPS as a worthy partner in this endeavor.

For this reason, allow me to briefly introduce GLOCEPS. GLOCEPS is an evidence-based think-tank located here in Nairobi, Kenya, that was established in 2020. We are a leading centre of excellence in policy influence and strategy formulation. We provide strategic linkage between experience and research by bringing together outstanding professionals, thought leaders and academia, like yourselves gathered here today, to advance key issues on peace and security. Our work cuts across five pillars, namely; security and defence; foreign policy; transnational organized crimes; governance and ethics; and development. The thematic issue that we are addressing today falls under the security and defence pillar headed by Dr John Mwangi, who will make his presentation shortly.

As regards today's roundtable, it has been convened to engage with the findings of an empirical research project that focused on unravelling as to why youth in the Majengo area of Nairobi County, remain vulnerable to radicalization. It is designed to achieve two objectives. One is to appraise policy practitioners on youth vulnerabilities to radicalization and violent extremism in Majengo, and two is to present policy suggestions for pre-empting existing vulnerability points for radicalization and violent extremism. It is further expected to appraise policy interventions necessary to counter the growth of online radical networks and the changing

nature of recruitment into Al-Shabaab, and other related social movements.

As a centre, we value applied research for its potential in problem identification, analysis and contribution to decision-making. We, therefore, believe that today's scholarly and policy conversation is critically important in a context like ours where terrorism remains a significant security threat. For this reason, and considering the experiences gathered in this room, the outcomes of this roundtable should concretize policy recommendations capable of strengthening our national capacities for addressing youth vulnerabilities to radicalization and violent extremism, not only in the Majengo area, but even in other regions of our country and beyond.

In this regard, allow me to sincerely thank each one of you for honouring our invitation to be part of this process. We believe that this round table shall benefit immensely from your extensive experience and contributions. I, therefore, encourage the discussants to be candid in their critique and other participants to freely share their reflections, particularly during the plenary session.

With those few remarks, it is now my honour and privilege to invite our Keynote speaker, who is also a member of GLOCEPS council of advisors, IG (Rtd) Joseph Boinnet, to make his remarks, Karibu sir.