UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

WELCOMING REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF. PETER M.F. MBITHI, DURING THE EXPERTS PANEL DISCUSSION ON “COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM” HELD ON JUNE 29, 2015 IN TAIFA HALL.
• Ambassador Monica Juma, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Interior and Discussion Moderator,
• The Invited Panel Presenters,
• University staff and students,
• Invited guests,
• Ladies and Gentlemen
I take this opportunity to welcome you all to the University of Nairobi, and specifically to this panel discussion on “Countering Violent Extremism” which the University is co-hosting together with the Ministry of Interior and Coordination of National Government. I therefore also take this opportunity to thank the Ministry through the Principal Secretary, Amb. Juma for recognizing and granting the University the honour of co-hosting the panel discussion.
I am aware that the government is intent on optimizing on talents of leading experts and scholars to further deeper awareness and propagate the right kind of message on the important topic of Countering Violent Extremism. As all of us are aware, the country has in recent years had to reckon with attacks from violent extremists, who have even attacked institutions of higher learning.

On its part, the University is keen to play it’s rightfully role and contribute towards this noble idea of countering extremism and terrorism. It is towards this end that the University through its Institute of Diplomacy and International Studies recently held a symposium on

Related to that, the University, again through IDIS, and with collaboration through the United Nations High Commission for Refugees held another symposium on June 17, 2015 with the topic “Get to know refugees, their roles in the host country”. These two symposia relate directly to the topic of discussion today. It is therefore important that all of us play our role in confronting this challenge that is facing the country and the region.
With those remarks, I once again welcome you to the University of Nairobi.

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VICE CHANCELLOR

AND

PROFESSOR OF VETERINARY SURGERY