



World Institute for
Nuclear Security

WINS Webinar

Violent Extremism and Threats to the Nuclear Sector: understanding radicalisation

23 NOVEMBER 2021

Radicalisation and Violent extremism



- ❑ The Threat is real. We have evidence that the nuclear industry is a target.
- ❑ The potential consequences would be significant, have worldwide implications and are a “prize worth pursuing.”
- ❑ VE includes a “violent” component, not just extreme views. VEs use violence to achieve their goals. They are criminals and should be dealt with accordingly.
- ❑ Evolutions of the threat are difficult to predict. We need to periodically refresh our assessment and acknowledge the limitations of our knowledge.
- ❑ Trends have radically changed over the last 20 years and will continue to evolve.



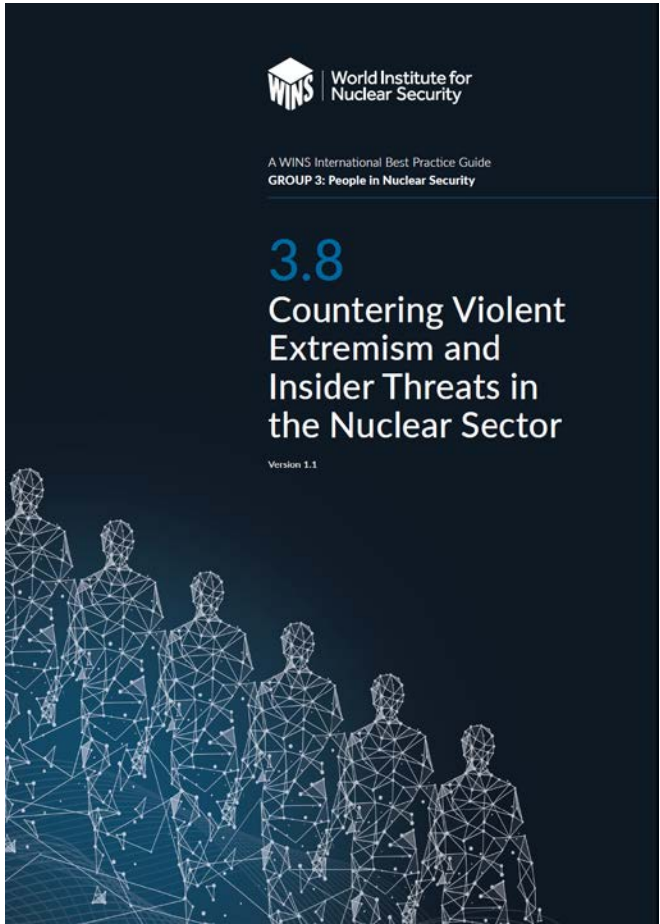
We need to take the problem seriously and periodically refresh our knowledge and practices!

Objectives of the Webinar

- ❑ To develop a common understanding of what we mean by radicalisation and violent extremism (VE)
- ❑ To review some changes in the world these last 18 months and try to understand their impact on the VE threat
- ❑ To assess the relevance of the threat to the nuclear industry and anticipate how the threat could materialise
- ❑ To explore some potential mitigation measures
- ❑ To listen to participants opinion and comments

- Understanding radicalization and extremism
 - ❖ Trends in global terrorism
 - ❖ The root causes of violent extremism
- Assessing the risk for the nuclear industry
- Mitigating the risk
 - ❖ Prevention arrangements
 - ❖ Protective measures
- Suggested further reading

Existing relevant materials



Pre-event survey results



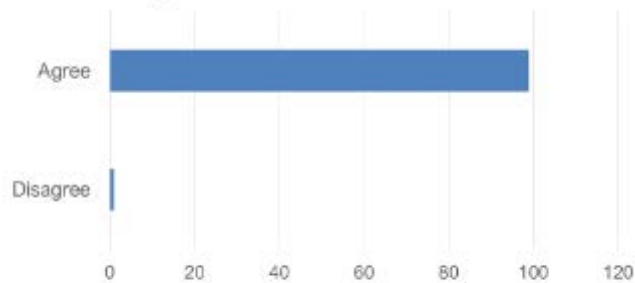
A survey form with a Likert scale. The scale has four columns: "Neither Agree Nor Disagree", "Somewhat Agree", "Strongly Agree", and "Agree Completely". Each column contains a radio button. A red pen is positioned at the bottom right, pointing towards the "Strongly Agree" column. Three red dots are visible in the "Agree Completely" column, indicating that three respondents selected this option.

Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Agree	Strongly Agree	Agree Completely
<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
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Survey results

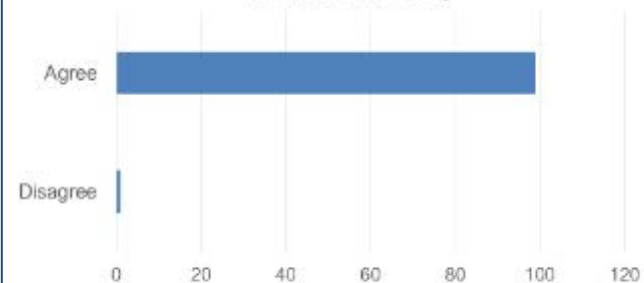
Question 1

I have a good understanding of what is meant by radicalisation and violent extremism



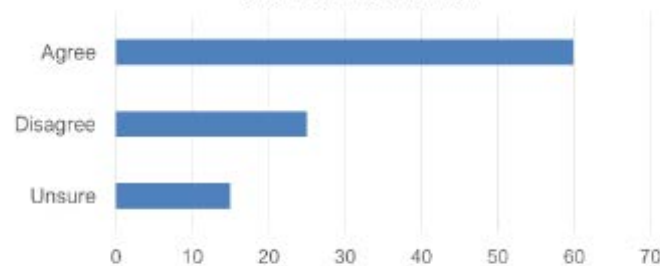
Question 2

The threat of radicalisation is very relevant to the nuclear industry



Question 3

The nuclear industry has taken necessary measures to mitigate the risk of radicalisation and violent extremism



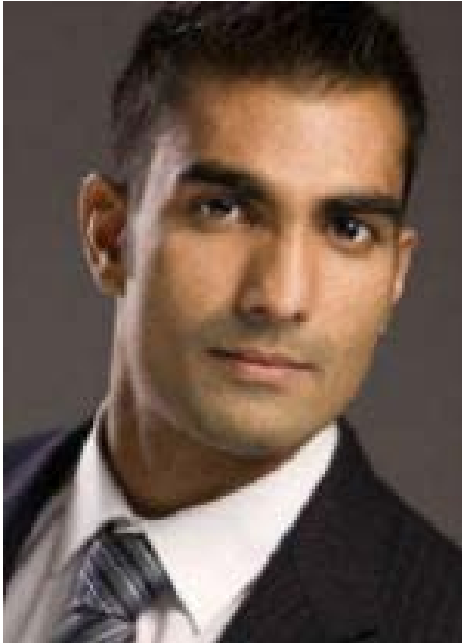
Examples of participants' questions to be addressed

- How to identify traits of early signs of radicalization in the workplace? Then , how to deal with it?
- What are effective mitigation measures?
- Radicalization is often understood as "religious" radicalisation or extremism. Are we taking the risk to miss violent actions perpetrated by other groups such as right-wing extremists, anti-nuclear groups, etc.?
- How to address this issue without hurting religious sentiments?
- Should prevention of radicalization and violent extremism be a regulatory requirement?
- How secure are nuclear installations in volatile countries are? How can international organisations and programmes help countries implementing effective measures?
- How can we prevent the use of social media for radicalization?

Examples of questions that we will NOT address

- There are a lot of radicalisation cases emerging from religion. It cannot sustain without funding and good support. Who are all supporting this?
- What is your opinion about USA and Pakistan Relationships ?

Guest Speakers



Dr. Samir Puri

Senior Fellow in Urban Security
and Hybrid Warfare at the
International Institute for
Strategic Studies (Singapore)



Carol Higson

Manager Security
Department, Capenhurst
Site, Urenco, UK

- ❑ Why do we need to take the topic seriously?
- ❑ What is our global feeling on achievements and remaining challenges?



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Violent Extremism and Threats to the Nuclear Sector: understanding radicalisation

Dr Samir Puri

23 NOVEMBER 2021

Structure

- Trends in global terrorism
- The root causes of violent extremism
- Conclusions

We can certainly agree on the following

- Words and their meanings are subjective; ‘terrorism’ is one of the most contested concepts in modern discourse’ ‘violent extremism’ is similarly subjective.
- Understandings of terrorism and violent extremism change due to:
 - The era we are in
 - Which part of the world we are in
 - Prevalent tactics and ideologies of violent actors
 - The absence, presence and proximity of war zones
 - Cultural perspectives on violence, politics and ideology

Agreeing on concepts and definitions

- **The importance of respect:** we must first of all agree to disagree. One person's understanding of terrorism and violent extremism may differ from another person.
- **The importance of terminology:** nevertheless, it is important for us to share a common understanding of the concepts and terminology we will be using.
- **What follows is a practical guide to terminology**

‘Terrorism’ and ‘Violent Extremism’

Terrorism, as we generally understand it, relates to violence. It involves the *use of violence to coerce and intimidate governments and populations for some sort of political and ideological goal.*

For terrorism to be in occurrence, the threat and actuality of violence needs to be present.

Violent extremism *is related to but distinct from terrorism*

- What do we mean by ‘violent extremism’?
- Why don’t we just say ‘extremism’?
- How does this relate to terrorism?

‘Violent Extremism’, ‘Extremism’ and ‘Radicalization’

‘Violent extremism’ may be possible to define – **as we shall see**

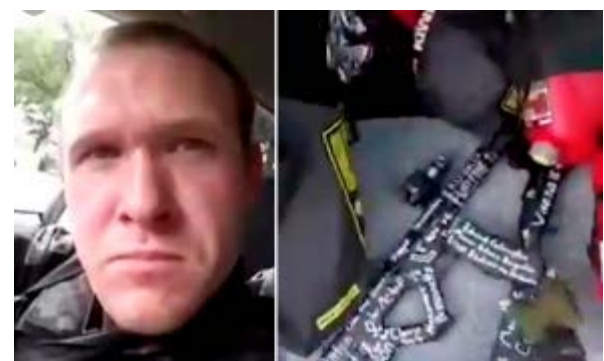
‘Extremism’ is unlikely to be defined – **and it would unwise to**

‘Radicalization’ is a related concept – **and it can lead to the above**

Remember, unless there is some relationship to violent action, whether this is emotional or practical support, it is unlikely that a person could credibly be considered a threat.

Terrorism and Violent Extremism occurs globally

Therefore, it is hard to come up with a universally agreed definition...
...because the term has different meanings in different contexts
...because culture, perspective and profession will influence our definitions
...and because of sheer variety of perpetrators of terrorism, of their justificatory ideologies, and their modes of attack



Trends in Jihadist Terrorism

- Two decades since 9/11
- Al Qaeda used skilled operatives
- ISIS relies on inspiring followers
- Both thrived in war zones
- Both rely on local affiliates
- ISIS attracted many foreign fighters
- Globally, and online, the movements live on



Trends in Far Right Terrorism



- Anders Breivik, Norway (2011)
- Far right terrorists often older, often lone attackers
- Ideologically waging war in defence of their nation
- Brenton Tarrant, New Zealand attack (2019)
- Other cases include a US Coast Guard officer
- Overall, far right attacks are on the rise
- They can contribute to retaliatory cycles

The New York Times

Coast Guard Officer Called a 'Domestic Terrorist' Pleads Guilty to Gun and Drug Charges

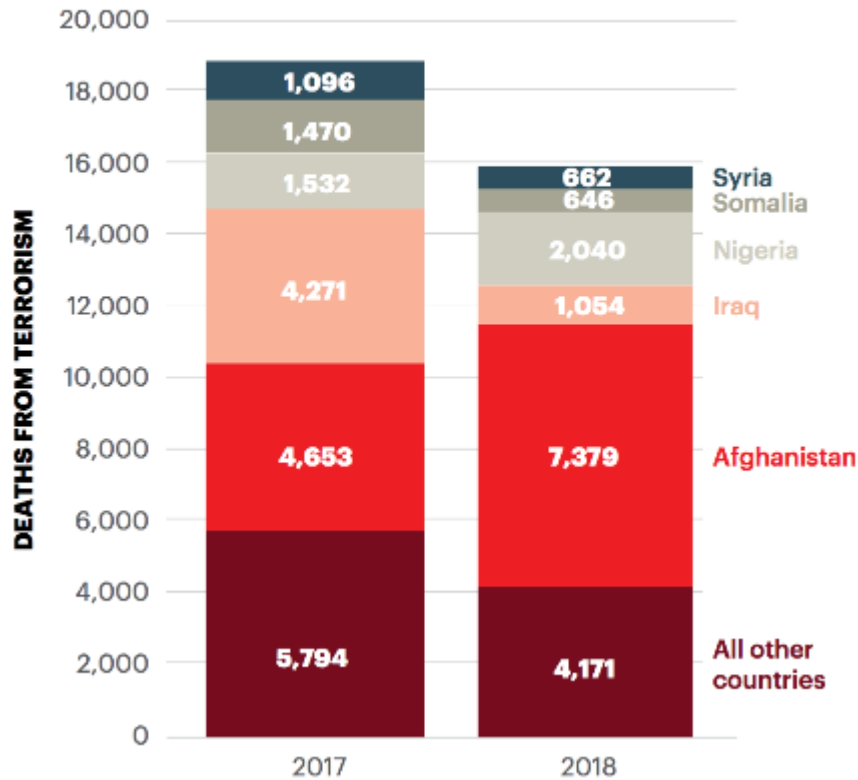
Lt. Christopher P. Haason of Silver Spring, Md., had described himself as a white nationalist who wanted to kill innocent civilians, prosecutors and court filings say.



Global Terrorism Index 2019 (2020?)

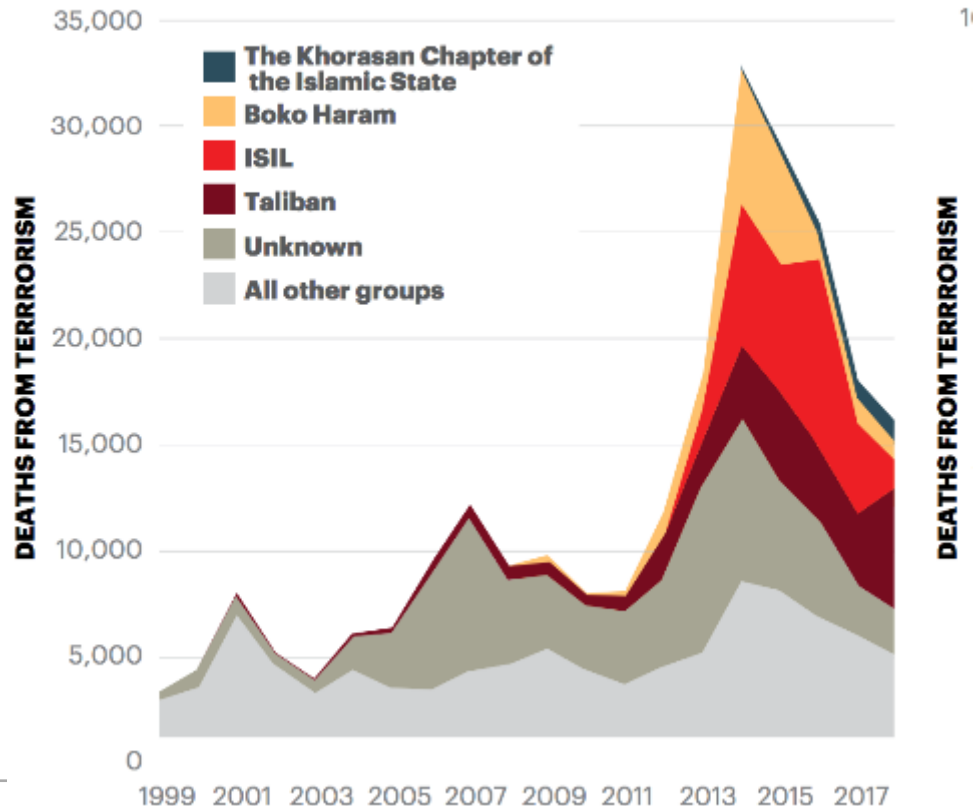
Total terrorism deaths by country, 2017–2018

Total deaths from terrorism fell 15.2 per cent from 2017 to 2018.



Four deadliest terrorist groups in 2018 (1999–2018)

For the first time since 2013, ISIL was not the deadliest terrorist group.



Global Terrorism Index 2019

2019 GLOBAL TERRORISM INDEX

MEASURING THE IMPACT
OF TERRORISM

THE IMPACT OF TERRORISM



Structure

The root causes of violent extremism

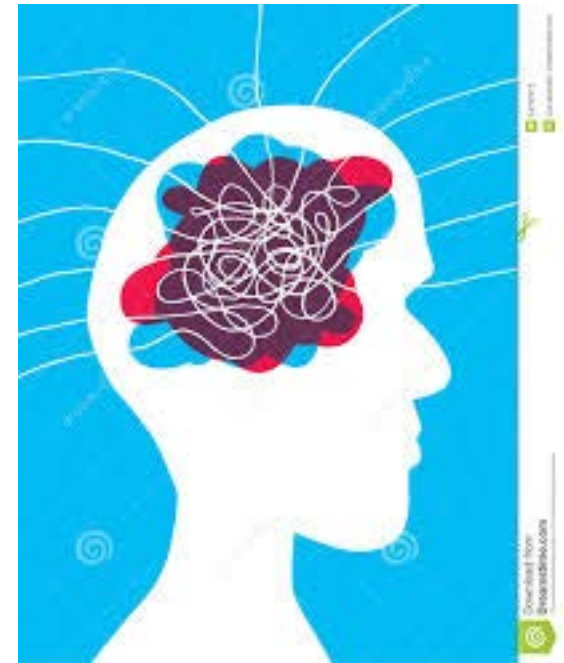
Individual and group aims

Two levels of analysis:

- The aims and personal motivations of individual terrorists
- The aims of the terrorist groups as a whole

Level 1: Individual aims and Radicalization

- Revenge
- Personal crisis and/or alienation
- Genuine sense of injustice
- Status
- Adventurism
- Aggression and greed
- And so on...



Radicalization

1. What is the radicalization problem?

➤ **From disgruntlement, to sympathy for terrorism, to action.**

2. How can we understand the problem?

➤ **The strengths and weaknesses of radicalisation models.**

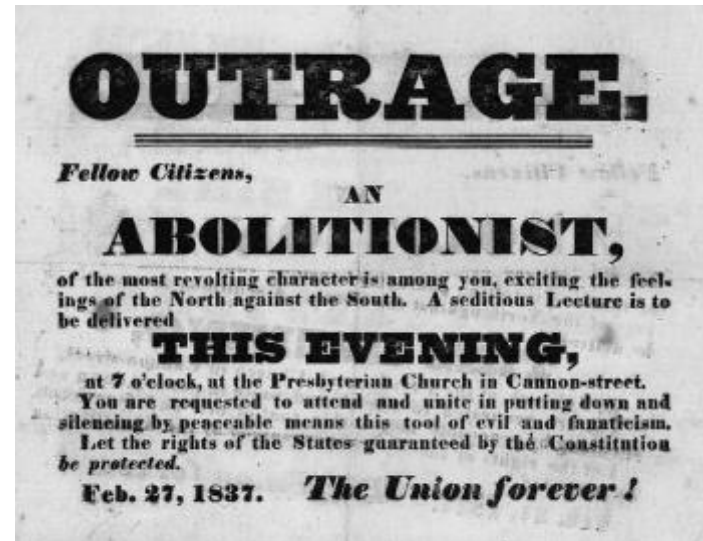
3. What can we do about it?

➤ **Security vetting of employees for governments and companies.**

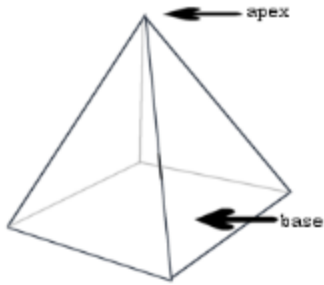
What is the radicalization problem?

- ‘Radicalization’ is a hugely contested term.
- As with ‘terrorist’ and ‘terrorism’, its meaning changes based on context and time. Thinking of it as referring to a fixed phenomenon is a mistake.
- The term is:
 - Relative
 - Context dependent
 - Subjective

'Radical' – compared to when?



How can we understand the problem?



Pyramid (McCauley)



Staircase (Moghadam)

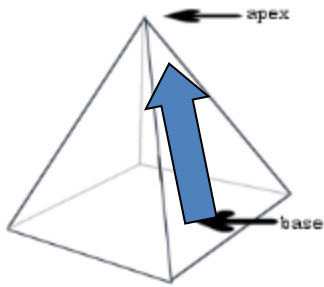


Mountain (START)

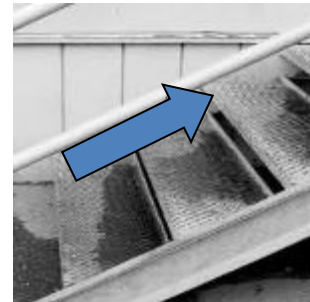


Conveyor Belt (Baran)

How can we understand the problem?



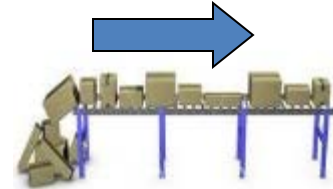
Pyramid (McCauley)



Staircase (Moghadam)



Mountain (START)



Conveyor Belt (Baran)

How can we understand the problem?

The problem with all of these models is that **everyone is an individual**

The process of radicalization to violent extremism is **idiosyncratic**

It may well involve a **significant emotion event (SEE)** and a trigger



Cognitive versus Violent Radicalization

Quintan Wiktorowicz: ‘cognitive opening’ required within individuals for propaganda or active recruitment by terrorist groups to have traction

Cognitive radicalization – holding extremist views

Violent radicalization – acting violently on these beliefs

From disgruntlement, to sympathy for terrorism, to action – there is no one path and no certain predictive tool



Radicalization versus Recruitment

Radicalization – a personal and highly idiosyncratic process – **PUSH**

Recruitment – concerted efforts of charismatic individuals – **PULL**



Anwar Al-Awlaki (1971 – 2011)

An example of a charismatic recruiter working from afar. Others may embed within communities

Conclusions on radicalization

Avoid generalizations. 'Radicalization' itself is a hugely contested term.

Theories of radicalization are useful retrospective tools, less useful predictively – because everyone is an individual.

Conclusions on radicalization (continued)

Cognitive versus Behavioral Radicalization.

Radicalization versus Recruitment.

‘Push’ versus ‘Pull’ factors.

.... these themes will be discussed in subsequent classes



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Thank you Samir !

Feedback and Questions from the audience?

Poll:

The nuclear industry has taken necessary measures to mitigate the risk of radicalisation and violent extremism

1. Agree
2. Unsure
3. Disagree

- ❑ Understanding the threat
 - How does radicalisation relate to the nuclear sector?
 - How can we recognise the signs?
- ❑ Preventing and protection against the threat?
- ❑ Responding to an incident involving a violent extremist?

- ❑ How does radicalisation relate to the nuclear sector?
- ❑ How can we recognise the signs?

- ❑ What can we do?
- ❑ What are good practices for mitigating the risk?
- ❑ What are examples of preventive measures? What are examples of protective measures?

- ❑ Are there particular challenges in responding to the VE Threat?
- ❑ What needs to be in place to ensure an effective response?

FINAL DISCUSSION

HAVE WE ANSWERED YOUR QUESTIONS?

- ❑ Ackerman, G.A., & Halverson, J., 'Attacking nuclear facilities: Hype or genuine threat?' In B. Volders & T. Sauer (eds.), Nuclear terrorism: Countering the Threat (New York: Routledge 2016).
- ❑ Bunn, Matthew and Sagan, Scott (eds.), Insider Threats (Cornell University Press 2016).
- ❑ Martin, Paul, “Rules of Security” (Oxford University Press 2019)
- ❑ www.cpni.gov.uk/reducing-insider-risk
- ❑ www.cpni.gov.uk/terrorism



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CONCLUSION REMARKS



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THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING !