



**GCERF**  
Global Community Engagement  
and Resilience Fund



**Hedayah**  
countering violent extremism



**Joint Statement on behalf of GCERF, Hedayah and IIJ  
by Dr Khalid Koser, Executive Director, GCERF**

**Multilateral Counter-terrorism Cooperation: The United Nations Global Counter-  
Terrorism Coordination Compact—Global Counterterrorism Forum partnership  
30 June 2021, 8 – 9.30 am EDT**

Excellencies, dear Colleagues,

It is my honour to be part of this distinguished panel and to make a statement on behalf of the three GCTF-inspired institutions. We are Hedayah, the International Institute for Justice and the Rule of Law (IIJ) and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), where I am the Executive Director.

GCERF is the global fund for preventing violent extremism, supporting local initiatives to build community resilience against radicalisation and recruitment to violent extremism. Over the last five years, GCERF has invested over USD 100m in community-based organisations worldwide, reaching 2 million young people at risk.

Hedayah is the international center of excellence for countering violent extremism dedicated to technical excellence and delivering groundbreaking research, innovative methodologies and programs. Hedayah reached and built the capacity of over 10,000 people since its inception from over 100 countries through various capacity building and communications programs, such as the STRIVE Global program and Supporting Youth and Children Vulnerable to Violent Extremism, as well as through various evidence-based resources and good practices such as the Blueprint of Rehabilitation and Reintegration Center: Guiding Principles for Rehabilitating and Reintegrating Returning Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their Family Members.

The IIJ is a leading implementer of practitioner-oriented capacity-building for lawmakers, police, prosecutors, judges, corrections officials, and other justice sector stakeholders on how to address terrorism and related transnational criminal activities within a rule of law framework. Since 2014, the IIJ has trained more than 6300 criminal justice practitioners from more than 120

countries, delivering tailored curricula at the national, regional and international levels with sustainable impact.

Each of our institutions is an independent organisation; but we are mutually reinforcing and united in our mission to prevent and counter violent extremism. Together we are fundamental implementing partners for GCTF Framework Documents and have supported the Forum's Working Groups. We have led capacity-building projects in many regions globally, including North Africa, West Africa, East Africa, the Balkans, and South and Southeast Asia. Our work includes implementing GCTF outputs tackling global priorities including the rehabilitation and reintegration of foreign-terrorist fighters, countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, criminal justice and the rule of law.

We also cooperate closely with the United Nations. At a strategic level, each of our institutions has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UNOCT. All our work with national governments is consistent with applicable national PVE strategies and policies and the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. These include Pillar I of the Strategy, relevant UN Security Council resolutions, and the UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

Allow me also to provide a few more practical examples of the cooperation between each of our institutions and the UN.

First, GCERF:

- In September, UNOCT and GCERF will jointly organise a training on preventing violent extremism through strategic communications in Mindanao in the Philippines for representatives of civil society and local authorities. This will be a pilot project and will be deployed in other countries later next year.
- We look forward to drawing on the expertise and knowledge of UN colleagues and experts when implementing a new GCFT 'Initiative on Funding and Enabling Community-Level P/CVE' under the auspice of the Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Working Group, co-chaired by Australia and Indonesia.
- GCERF coordinates closely with various UN agencies when developing and implementing tailored country and regional investment strategies that guide our work in partner countries where it operates.
- In the Western Balkans, GCERF has recently established a regional coordination panel to guide our investments, and IOM Kosovo is a member of the panel. In Tunisia, we coordinate closely with UNDP Tunisia in implementing our Country Strategy. In Mali, we will be organising a national conference on the prevention of violent extremism with UNDP in Bamako later in 2021. In Kenya, with our support, one of our grantees has

partnered with UNODC on developing a Strategy on the Prevention of Radicalization in Prison Facilities.

Second, Hedayah:

- Hedayah is partnering with UNOCT on a “Regional workshop on addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism in the Arab world”, to be held from 13 – 15 July, in Dubai.

In relation to previous cooperation, Hedayah has partnered with the UN on:

- The “Civil Society Workshop in advance of the UN-UAE Regional Conference for Arab League Countries: “Empowering Youth and Promoting Tolerance: Practical Approaches to Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism”.
- A “Preventing Violent Extremism through Education (PVE-E)” workshop in Uganda in partnership with UNESCO in Kampala.
- Training-of-trainer sessions on preventing and countering violent extremism National Action Plan for UNDP staff and work with UNDP on implementing multiple joint workshops, including in Kuala Lumpur for the South-East Asia region.

Finally, IIJ:

The IIJ prioritises collaboration and coordination with UN Compact entities across many of its IIJ Core Initiatives and Workstreams, including *inter alia* on Battlefield Evidence, Juvenile Justice and its innovative Multi-Actor P/CVE Interventions Workstream. One such example in 2020, saw the IIJ partner with UNODC to address challenges posed by the COVID-19 global pandemic, when courts around the world struggled to maintain normal functioning. Together, the IIJ and UNODC are developing a set of Recommendations on Remote Access to Justice – examining the legal and technical requirements needed to provide remote access to criminal proceedings in terrorism cases while safeguarding fundamental human rights and the rule of law. These recommendations will be finalised this summer, to be followed by a series of capacity-building programmes for criminal justice practitioners in North, East and West Africa, and the Middle East. The Recommendations support implementation of the GCTF’s *The Hague Memorandum on Good Practices for the Judiciary in Adjudicating Terrorism Offences*, the GCTF’s *Rabat Memorandum on Good Practices for Effective Counterterrorism Practice in the Criminal Justice Sector*, the International Court of Justice’s Recommendations for Videoconferencing, Courts and COVID-19, and other relevant GCTF and UN guidance.

We look forward to continuing and further strengthening our strategic and operational partnerships with both GCTF and the UN.

Thank you very much.