



On 17 and 18 November 2014, sixty representatives from more than twenty countries, the European Union, United Nations, civil society, private sector, foundations, and research institutions gathered in Geneva, Switzerland for the inaugural Board meeting of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF).

A public-private partnership, GCERF is the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas. At the first Board meeting, members agreed upon a number of strategic issues, including appointing Ms Carol Bellamy as Chair, and Dr Khalid Koser as Executive Director; governance documents, including grant application processes, resource mobilization, and a two-tier funding mechanism were also endorsed. In addition to the core funding mechanism, which will initially provide funding in four pilot countries, a detailed proposal for a secondary accelerated funding mechanism to facilitate the international community's swift responses to urgent issues in violent extremism (including funding initiatives to counter radicalisation to the group known as ISIL, ISIS or *Da'esh*) was approved. It is expected that GCERF's core funding mechanism will begin disbursing funds to community-level initiatives in Bangladesh, Mali, Morocco, and Nigeria by September 2015.

Working in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries, it is anticipated that GCERF funds will provide support to community-level initiatives working to build resilience against violent extremist agendas, by funding projects in areas such as education, youth, women's advocacy, media, social entrepreneurship, and vocational training. The Chair expressed her satisfaction that this multi-stakeholder group united in support of a unique and critical approach to counter violent extremism.

For more information on GCERF, please visit www.gcerf.org.