

**GUIDELINES FOR COUNTRY SUPPORT MECHANISMS (CSMs) VERSION 3**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Effective date</b>	<b>Description and purpose of the changes</b>
1	November 2014	Initial version approved by GCERF Governing Board.
2	January 2016	Guidelines amended to reflect the refinements presented in BM.03/DOC.06 and approved by the GCERF Governing Board in BM.03/DEC.06 in December 2015.
3	June 2016	Guidelines amended to reflect the refinements presented in BM.04/DOC.06 and approved by the GCERF Governing Board in BM.04/DEC.06 in June 2016.

1.	INTRODUCTION .....	2
2.	COMPOSITION.....	2
3.	MEMBER SELECTION.....	3
4.	RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS.....	3
5.	CONFLICTS OF INTEREST .....	5
6.	TRANSPARENCY .....	5
7.	FUNDING.....	5

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 As a cornerstone of GCERF's Core Funding Mechanism (CFM), following the selection of new CFM countries by the GCERF Governing Board, each will be invited to form a Country Support Mechanism (CSM), as is established practice.
- 1.2 GCERF recognises the importance of different national contexts, governance systems, and government operating procedures. GCERF also recognises the role of governments in coordinating the response to violent extremism (VE) in their countries, as well as the essential role of civil society and development partners to support the government in its efforts. As such, GCERF requires government; civil society; private sector; and bilateral, international, and multilateral stakeholders at the country level to define a clear mechanism for the coordination of their joint efforts around GCERF financing from the CFM. When appropriate, an already existing mechanism or comparable structure may service this function, provided it can meet the requirements set out in this document.

## **2. COMPOSITION**

- 2.1 GCERF recognises that only through a coordinated, multi-sector approach involving all relevant stakeholders – each with different skills, background, and experience – will GCERF resources have significant results and impact on VE. To this end, the participation of a broad range of stakeholders from governmental and non-governmental constituencies is considered essential for fulfilling all the functions of the CSM.
- 2.2 Membership should ideally consist of:
  - (a) government representatives (national, state, provincial, local);
  - (b) civil society representatives (women's organisations, children and youth, international and national non-governmental organisations working on preventing violent extremism (PVE) and related fields, charitable organisations, religious and faith-based organisations, academia/research institutions);
  - (c) private sector representatives; and
  - (d) representatives of bilateral, international, and multilateral partners active in PVE in the country.
- 2.3 While there is no upper limit for CSM members, it is recommended that membership does not exceed 15 members. Beneficiary country government representatives on a CSM shall not exceed more than 50 percent of its membership.

- 2.4 CSM members should: have relevant expertise in the mission of GCERF; ideally be gender-balanced; and include geographical representation from states/provinces/districts affected by radicalisation to VE.
- 2.5 CSMs should submit to the GCERF Secretariat, periodically and on request, a detailed CSM Membership Roster (including each member's name, title, entity or institution represented, contact information, and participation record). The Secretariat will make this information available to the Board.
- 2.6 The CSM shall select a Chair at its first meeting using an open and transparent process.

### **3. MEMBER SELECTION**

- 3.1 CSM membership should be decided based on an open Call for Expressions of Interest initiated by the government. This should ideally take the form of placing advertisements in newspapers, websites of ministries, and other fora appropriate to the country.

### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES AND FUNCTIONS**

- 4.1 The CSM is an essential element of the GCERF Core Funding Mechanism (CFM). The CSM is responsible for:
  - (a) Ensuring national support and respect for country-led responses to the threat of radicalisation to VE;
  - (b) Focusing on the creation, development, and expansion of partnerships among all relevant actors within a country, and across all sectors of society, including: government; civil society; the private sector; and bilateral, international, and multilateral stakeholders;
  - (c) Strengthening the participation of communities and people at risk of radicalisation to VE, and of people living with insecurity as a result of VE, in addressing the threat of radicalisation to violence;
  - (d) Building on, complementing, and coordinating with existing national counterterrorism, development, and PVE strategies and goals; and
  - (e) Encouraging transparency and accountability.

4.2 The CSM fulfils the following functions in relation to the CFM:

- (a) Promotes, through existing institutional channels and networks, the mission and mandate of GCERF;
- (b) Undertakes a national consultation on PVE priorities to: (i) inform the CSM's identification of the local drivers of VE, and of the demography and geography of communities at risk; (ii) convene a unique set of stakeholders nationally for targeted discussion; and (iii) inform the process of developing national PVE strategies, as called for by the United Nations Security Council (S/RES/2178) in 2014. The national consultation is expected to build on GCERF's independently commissioned Country Needs Assessment (CNA), and to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism.
- (c) Consults with GCERF's international Independent Review Panel (IRP) on the CSM's identified PVE priorities and national consultation process.
- (d) Provides the Board with the CSM's recommendation on national PVE priorities, to inform the Board's pre-allocation of funding. The CSM's recommendation should highlight where the CSM believes communities can play a greater role, and where there is assessed to be a gap in both efforts and funding. The components of the recommendation: (i) specific geographic locations; (ii) specific demographic/population groups; and (iii) drivers/factors of radicalisation to violent extremism.
- (e) Issues a national, open Call for Expressions of Interest from Potential Principal Recipients (PPRs);
- (f) With the Secretariat, jointly selects PPRs based on GCERF Governing Board-approved PR capability requirements, and informed by a report summarising the findings of the Secretariat's preliminary due diligence and risk assessment process.
- (g) Reviews applications received from PPRs, and compiles and submits to GCERF a National Application, within the established funding ceiling.
- (h) Consults with the Secretariat about the decision to reimburse pre-agreed costs incurred for community needs assessments.

## **5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- 5.1 Conflicts of interest arise where the individual or organisational interests of CSM members influence or could potentially influence their decision-making. The mere perception of a conflict of interest can damage the credibility of the CSM and GCERF as a whole. Actual, potential, or apparent conflicts of interest are expected in all decision-making bodies, and should be managed to ensure objective and credible decision-making.
- 5.2 CSMs are required to develop and publish a policy to manage conflict of interest that applies to all CSM members, across all CSM functions. The policy must state that:
- (a) CSMs will periodically declare conflicts of interest affecting themselves or other CSM members; and
  - (b) CSMs must document that members will not take part in decisions where there is an obvious conflict of interest, including decisions related to the selection of PPRs or PRs.

## **6. TRANSPARENCY**

- 6.1 CSMs should demonstrate transparency in their operations. It should develop and follow a communications strategy for sharing information with members, stakeholders, and the general public. The strategy should define the activities that will be used to disseminate information on GCERF financing opportunities, on CSM discussions and decisions, and on the performance of initiatives financed by GCERF or the approval of an application for funding.
- 6.2 Minutes of all CSM meetings shall be taken and transparently shared with interested stakeholders, including with the Secretariat.

## **7. FUNDING**

- 7.1 The activities of the CSM are self-funded. CSM members may seek assistance from local donors to fund CSM activities, where available.