

## **REPORT OF THE 12<sup>th</sup> BOARD MEETING**

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The 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board (the Board) of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF) was held in three virtual sessions, on May 28, June 8, and June 9, 2020; decisions were taken on 28 May and 9 June, detailed in this report, and a special session devoted to the Chair recruitment process was held on June 8 for Board Members only. The approved agenda for the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Governing Board is contained in Annex 1 and the participant list in Annex 2 of this report.

### **1. WELCOMING REMARKS**

1.1 The Chair of the Board, Ms Carol Bellamy, opened the meeting, thanking all for their flexibility to hold the meeting virtually given the global pandemic COVID-19. The Chair welcomed all guests and briefly reminded them of virtual meeting best practices.

### **2. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**

#### *Appointment of the Rapporteur*

2.1 The Chair requested that the Board appoint a rapporteur for the meeting. Mr Anthony Carroll, Alternate Board Member for the Private Sector constituency, kindly agreed to take the role.

2.2 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.01:** Mr Anthony Carroll of the Private Sector constituency is appointed as the Rapporteur of the 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

#### *Approval of the Agenda*

2.3 The Chair introduced the agenda (BM.12/DOC.01), distributed to the Board in advance of the meeting, for any final comments and approval.

2.4 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.02:** The agenda for the 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting (BM.12/DOC.01) is approved.

#### *Confirmation of new Board Members*

2.5 The Chair welcomed new members to the Board, Ms Cecile Hillyer as Board Member for Australia, Japan and New Zealand, Ambassador Masud bin Momen as Board Member for

Bangladesh, Ambassador M. Shameem Ahsan as Alternate Board Member for Bangladesh, Mr Ram Kamineni (Canada) as Alternate Board Member for Canada and United Kingdom, Mr Tunde Mukaila Mustapha (Nigeria) as Board Member for Mali and Nigeria, and Mr Rached Bettaieb (Tunisia) as Board Member for Tunisia and the Philippines constituencies.

2.6 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.03:** The Board notes the following change in its membership (each without signatory authority) since the 11<sup>th</sup> Board meeting:

- **Australia, Japan and New Zealand:** Ms Cecile Hillyer replaces Mr Chitaru Shimizu as the Board Member;
- **Bangladesh:** Ambassador Masud bin Momen replaces Ambassador Md. Shahidul Haque as the Board Member;
- **Bangladesh:** Ambassador M. Shameem Ahsan is the Alternate Board Member;
- **Canada and United Kingdom:** Mr Ram Kamineni replaces Ms Michelle Cameron as the Alternate Board Member;
- **Mali and Nigeria:** Mr Tunde Mukaila Mustapha replaces Ambassador Audu Ayinla Kadiri as the Board Member;
- **Tunisia and the Philippines:** Mr Rached Bettaieb replaces Mr Mokhtar Ben Nasr as the Board Member.

### 3. 2019 ANNUAL REPORT FOR SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY

3.1 The Chair presented BM.12/DOC.02 for discussion and decision. The Board Member for Tunisia and the Philippines asked about equitable geographical representation among staff as well as including experts from North Africa and the Middle East in the Independent Review Panel (IRP); the Executive Director explained that diversity and inclusion is a priority for GCERF and that the replenishment of the IRP prioritises representation from the geographical areas in which GCERF works.

3.2 The Alternate Board Member for Bangladesh said he was happy to see GCERF's progress, relationship established with partner countries and the programmes building on lessons learned over the years. He mentioned that his constituency submitted comments in writing prior to the Board Meeting concerning inaccuracies in a few sentences in the report; the ED confirmed the comments conveyed were taken into consideration and the Annual Report was amended accordingly.

3.3 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.04:** The Board approves the 2019 Annual Report of Activities contained in Annex 1 to BM.12/DOC.02 for submission to the Swiss Supervisory Authority for Foundations.

#### **4. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

4.1 The Chair invited the Executive Director (ED), Dr Khalid Koser, to present his report (BM.12/DOC.03) and welcomed participation from the Board.

4.2 The ED welcomed all to the Board Meeting and thanked them, the Chair, and the Secretariat. He thanked the Secretariat for their hard work and resilience. He invited all to take a look at the new GCERF website.

4.3 The ED highlighted three key points from the report:

1) The ED explained the impacts of COVID-19 on GCERF's work, highlighting the extremist groups leveraging the pandemic for their benefit and the risk of losing community resilience as access to programmes and trust in governments and authorities is reduced. He expressed gratitude and pride that GCERF survived the pandemic and is still a functioning, impactful organisation.

2) The ED thanked the Board Members for the pre-Board calls and offered to address some of the questions and concerns raised during them. He noted the helpful comments received on the Western Balkans Investment Strategy (BM.12/DOC.09) and noted that if passed, it will require additional funding. He recognised a desire by many Board Members to see a focus on outcomes and assured that the Secretariat will work closely with the Board to define the change we want to achieve and how to measure, monitor, and report it. He then mentioned the budget reduction and shortfall in operating expenses; this is in part due to delays and cancellations related to COVID-19 but also the systemic challenge GCERF confronts in raising sufficient funds each year to fulfil its mandate and be economically viable. In the short term, we need to fill the gap. In the longer term, the ED proposes to work with each donor to develop a business plan to fund the new strategy, which will be presented at the next Board meeting, and the basis of which needs to be unrestricted, multi-year contributions.

3) The ED invited Board Members to contact him directly, should the condensed virtual meeting leave any questions unanswered.

4.4 The Chair thanked the ED and reminded the Board of the virtual process for indicating an interest in speaking. She then opened the session to comments and questions.

*Discussion*

4.5 The Board Member for the Foundations constituency echoed sentiments expressed that GCERF's ability to attract the calibre of Chair that the Board intends will be impeded without the budget commitment in place to support the revised strategy. Continued deficit will also continue to limit GCERF's ability to attract and retain the talent it needs to fulfil its strategy and vision. The focus on outcomes is correct, but outcomes are won over the long term and he hopes these points can be reflected in future funding considerations by donor countries.

4.6 He supported the current private sector approach of pursuing corporates on the ground who will augment projects but given the Secretariat's limited resources, the Board must accept limitations to how much time can be dedicated to this; the strategy should consider an approach through national advisors, for instance, and given that PS funding will not contribute to OpEx, perhaps a donor(s) may consider 'match' funding.

4.7 The Board Member for the Civil Society constituency thanked the Chair and the ED. He asked for an update on grantee activity in the context of the pandemic, including any foreseen delays and related consequences. The ED thanked him for his interest and said that existing activities have been delayed but not cancelled; the workplans have been rearranged accordingly, with an immediate focus on administrative, reporting, and similar activities that can be done remotely, and a delay on activities requiring in person and group engagement; and supporting grantees to move activities online where possible. He acknowledged the ongoing question on the future of P/CVE work, and the need to support a transition to digital, agile responses.

4.8 Speaking for Australia, the Alternate Board Member for Australia, Japan and New Zealand commended the ED and the Secretariat for leveraging its network quickly to assess the impact of COVID-19 on P/CVE work and share findings publicly. He also expressed regret at the cancelled Australian contribution for Cox's Bazar, which was redirected to COVID-19 efforts. The ED expressed understanding for the reasons behind the cancelled funding, and thanked Australia for its contribution at the end of its last fiscal year.

4.9 The Alternate Board Member for Bangladesh thanked the Chair, ED, and Secretariat, and recognised the positive start to the meeting. He reiterated the need to focus on fundraising, lessons and results, and private sector. He asked for an update on the financial outlook, given some cancelled funding due to COVID-19. He thanked the Secretariat and its grantees for their quick responses to the pandemic, to the benefit of local communities, and looks forward to a resumption of regular activities when possible. He expressed concern about the lack of non-restricted funding. He asked for an update on the partnership with the

Kofi Annan Foundation and more details about the statement that smaller grants cost more in administration. The ED suggested some of the Alternate Board Member's questions would be answered by his colleagues in upcoming sessions. He updated that there have been no contribution cancellations besides that from Australia, though some expected contributions have been delayed. He acknowledged the broader issue on sustainable funding, a systemic challenge for GCERF, and suggested a strategic discussion take place at the next Board meeting to ensure that the new strategy will be funded.

4.10 Speaking for the EU, the Representative for the Board Member for the European Union, France, and Denmark thanked the Chair, ED, and the Secretariat, in particular for placing GCERF at the forefront of the discussion about the impact of COVID-19 on P/CVE. He requested more information on how GCERF sees the impact of the pandemic on its activities in the longer-term, particularly those that require travel, large gatherings, etc. He also reiterated the importance of details on outputs and impact, a crucial element of mobilising future funds. He suggested the Annual Report may be structured slightly differently to highlight monitoring and evaluation in an effective, strategic format. He supported strategic partnerships, including the MOU with UNOCT, to enhance complementarity of actions and foster mutual learning; he requested additional information on intended actions through these partnerships. The ED highlighted virtual sessions, as part of the Secretariat's quick reaction to the pandemic. He assured that GCERF and partners like the UNOCT are discussing how to work more closely together.

4.11 The Board Member for Switzerland thanked the Chair, ED and Secretariat for their work and resilience. He said Switzerland's recent multi-year, unrestricted funding of 1.5M CHF per year is a commitment to the 'collegial leadership' of the Board and invited other Board Members to contribute similarly for maximum impact. He supported the statement by the European Union, France, and Denmark regarding the importance of impact measurements and would like to participate in discussions on the strategic plan. Within the context of the GCERF response to COVID-19, he asked for additional thoughts on impact on the local communities, in particular if the pandemic is undoing existing work on decentralisation that has been for the betterment of communities. The ED thanked the Board Member and highlighted his use of 'collegial leadership', which will be particularly necessary at the next Board meeting to ensure the upcoming Strategy will be funded. He also said that so far GCERF has not seen a centralisation in its countries of operation, as governments continue to respect GCERF funded work in local communities; however, he noted concern about weakening resilience as communities are locking down and have less access to programmes and a sense of community.

4.12 The ED provided an update on private sector engagement, and thanked Mr Chris Harnisch from the United States for his active encouragement. Following a roundtable with

the private sector in Abuja, Nigeria in 2019, ongoing discussions with a telecommunications infrastructure company IHS Nigeria resulted in a partnership to support peace camps through the expansion of their reach and the offering of computer training and telephone repair training to attendees for all 2020 peace camps, approximately projected to reach 4,000 participants. He reiterated that this and other conversations have shown that realistically the impact and engagement of private sector will be through local support rather than GCERF-level financial contributions.

4.13 The ED provided an update on the Secretariat's work during the pandemic. Given its international status, GCERF was not eligible for any furlough benefits and the ED reported that GCERF had been able to maintain all staff so far. The Secretariat was able to smoothly transition to remote work and has saved the most money on travel that was put on hold due to the pandemic.

4.14 The Board Member for the Private Sector constituency agreed with the ED's statement about the realistic focus on private sector support at the local level. The Alternate Board Member for the Private Sector constituency thanked the ED for his report and said it answered his questions about private sector funding. He reiterated points made that the realistic engagement for the private sector is at the country level and asked to see that reflected in a strategy. The ED thanked the Private Sector constituency for their support to GCERF's ongoing private sector strategy.

4.15 Speaking for Canada, the Alternate Board Member for Canada and the United Kingdom thanked and congratulated GCERF for adapting to the realities of COVID-19. He was encouraged by results from the recently completed rounds of Bangladesh, Mali, and Nigeria, and reiterated the foreseen challenges of ongoing funding.

4.16 Speaking for the Netherlands, the Alternate Board Member for the United States of America, the Netherlands, and Norway thanked the Chair, the ED, and the Secretariat. He looks forward to the discussion on the next Strategy. He said fundraising will be a key part of the position for the new Chair, and that fundraising can only be successful if the Board Members deliver funding themselves to support GCERF initiatives. The ED thanked him for this comment and agreed that sustainable funding needs to come from the Board in order to attract the right candidate for Chair.

4.17 Speaking for Mali, the Alternate Board Member for Mali and Nigeria congratulated GCERF for hiring a National Advisor for Mali and for its progress on grant-making in the country, including facilitation of cooperation with the Malian government through the Country Support Mechanism (CSM). He welcomed the signature of recent grant agreements with the two consortia in Mali and two more agreements to be signed later in June 2020 for

a total amount of USD 2.7m. He also expressed hope that additional funding for Mali can be mobilised; encouraged the regional approach to the Sahel covering the three countries: Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger; and expressed support for a high-level mission to Mali later this year. The ED thanked him for acknowledging the good work of GCERF's National Advisors and said there is added value in these positions. He thanked the Ambassador for helping to improve relations and progress for GCERF work in Mali and joined him in requesting funding to support a Sahel regional strategy.

4.18 The Chair thanked all, and said that the issues, questions and comments raised will drive the rest of the Board Meeting.

## **5. FINANCIAL MATTERS**

5.1 The Chair introduced the session on Financial Matters, including an update from GCERF's Finance and Compliance Manager and external auditors from BDO, followed by two decisions.

5.2 The auditors from BDO briefly summarised the comprehensive report for the 2019 Audited Financial Statements (BM.12/DOC.04), confirming BDO's independence and a confirmation of the validity of GCERF's statements. He mentioned that one of the three minor recommendations made during the interim stage was satisfactorily implemented, while the two others, as well as two further recommendations made at the final audit will be implemented from July 2020.

5.3 The Finance and Compliance Manager briefly presented an update on the 2019 Audited Statements, highlighting two points: (i) both the revenue and expenses came below budget in 2019 because projected fundraising goals were not reached, and (ii) that BDO completed their four-year mandate and with Board approval, GCERF will launch the search for auditors for 2020 and beyond.

5.4 The Finance and Compliance Manager gave an update on the funding situation (BM.12/DOC.05), including that since the finalisation of the Board papers, GCERF received a new contribution from Switzerland on 5 June 2020. He reiterated the importance of non-restricted funding. He explained the revised 2020 budget, which has significantly decreased by ~35% (~USD 8.5m) primarily due to a reduction in grant commitments. He also acknowledged the delays to contributions and grant-making due to COVID-19, causing GCERF to hold about USD 3.4m in grant commitments until 2021. Despite this, shortfalls remain (USD 1.7m for portfolio management and USD 1.0m for operating expenses - OpEx), which are necessary to overcome in 2020 for the Secretariat to continue its current activities without disruptions.

5.5 He offered potential solutions to this, including: (i) exceptional additional donor contributions, (ii) a reallocation of existing funding for grant commitments or OpEx, (iii) using the aforementioned USD 3.4m surplus being carried over for grant making next year, and (iv) cutting Secretariat expenses where possible. All of these will be explored fully in the coming months. Finally, he reiterated the ED's points that GCERF requires sustainable funding to manage impactful grants and activities, and to remain economically viable.

5.6 Finally, the Finance and Compliance Manager briefly presented the update on the Internal Control System (BM.12/DOC.06), which did not have changes since the last board meeting.

#### *Discussion*

5.7 Speaking for New Zealand, the Board Member for Australia, Japan, and New Zealand asked if GCERF's audit committee has oversight of this process. The Chair clarified that while the Finance & Audit Committee has been created, it still requires sufficient members to launch the activities of the committee and is searching for volunteers.

5.8 Speaking for the United States, the Representative for the Board Member for the United States of America, the Netherlands, and Norway expressed appreciation to all for their work. He said the United States remains steadfast and committed to supporting the work of GCERF, reflected in an earmark written into law for fiscal year 2020<sup>1</sup> and an anticipated financial commitment from USAID. He commended GCERF for its private sector efforts, and its continuous efforts to streamline its processes and improve cost effectiveness. He said the US contribution of USD 1.5m is expected in the next few months, and he acknowledged the existing shortfall of operating expenses. He encouraged GCERF to increase its private sector partnerships and to bring more donor countries into the fold, including middle income countries impacted by terrorism, such as in Central Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.

5.9 The Board Member for Tunisia and the Philippines praised the ambitious strategy of GCERF 2017-2020 and looks forward to the development of the next strategy, encouraging it to realistically reflect the current funding situation. He also encouraged the expansion and pursuit of non-traditional donors, such as the private sector and development banks, during the current situation of competing for donors. Focus on communications efforts to promote GCERF and its results will help to attract new donors, and this is the shared responsibility of

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<sup>1</sup> Global Fragility Act of 2019, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/727#:~:text=Global%20Fragility%20Act%20of%202019,-This%20bill%20directs&text=The%20President%20shall%20report%20to,prevent%20extremism%20and%20violent%20conflict>.

both the Secretariat and the Board. The Finance & Compliance Manager agreed that GCERF must explore all options to fill its funding gap in the coming months.

5.10 Speaking for the United Kingdom, the Board Member for Canada and United Kingdom confirmed a new contribution to GCERF for 2020. She committed that a portion of funds will be allocated for operating expenses. She reminded the Secretariat to build in flexibility regarding donor country funding cycles, particularly when pursuing multi-year contributions. She called for the prioritisation of a Chair candidate with proven fundraising ability for a multilateral organisation. The Finance & Compliance Manager thanked the UK for its contribution and for its partial allocation to OpEx. He understands the donor constraints on multi-year, non-restricted funding and said it is also a big restraint for GCERF, expressing his surprise upon starting his role at GCERF to see such a high percentage of restricted funding.

5.11 Speaking for Canada, the Alternate Board Member for Canada and United Kingdom asked if the surplus presented to be carried over to 2021 (USD 3.4m) might cover the shortfall in operating expenses for 2020. The Finance & Compliance Manager said that it is possible to use this surplus to cover OpEx, however, it is currently allocated to grant commitments and doing so would alter the ratio of funding allocations that GCERF has imposed.

5.12 The Representative for Norway thanked the ED and the Finance and Compliance Manager for their presentation. He suggested that the best time to review the funding issues is in parallel with the upcoming strategy but agreed that it is important to ensure funding for new countries now and that without full financing, they should be put on hold. He said Norway does have restrictions to what it can contribute to OpEx and said these restrict GCERF from using the grant surplus to cover 2020 OpEx and would make Norway reconsider its support for GCERF.

5.13 The ED thanked all for their inputs and said his priority for the coming months will be to address the systemic funding challenge. He highlighted that: (i) GCERF is expanding into new countries without additional funding, so expects the Board to put money behind its approvals of new countries and, (ii) the Secretariat has already gone through a restructure to reduce OpEx, with no room left for additional adjustment. He noted the option for covering the shortfall with a request for emergency funding from donors, stressing the extraordinary impact of COVID-19.

5.14 The Board took the following decisions:

**BM.12/DEC.05:** The Board:

a. approves the financial statements prepared in US Dollars and in accordance with IFRS for SMEs and the statutory financial statements presented in Swiss Francs (CHF); and

b. requests the Secretariat to issue a request for proposals for external audit services for the year 2020 and beyond, and to present its analysis of the proposals received and its recommendation to the Board for approval at or prior to its next meeting.

**BM.12/DEC.06:** The Board endorses the internal control measures currently in place. It requests the Secretariat to continue developing and operating the internal control system on the basis of the principles and approach described in document BM.12/DOC.06.

## **6. RESULTS UPDATE**

6.1 The Chair invited the Head of Performance & Impact to present an update on Results (BM.12/DOC.07). The Head of Performance & Impact thanked the Board for its support and highlighted three points: (i) the value and duration of grant acquisition slightly declined, reflecting more focused programming, (ii) grant management saw an increase in the number and cumulative value disbursed, and (iii) grant performance included an improved focus on monitoring the expected behavioural change from programming, at both the individual and community level.

### *Discussion*

6.2 Speaking for the Netherlands, the Alternate Board Member for the United States of America, the Netherlands and Norway acknowledged the advantages of smaller grants in order to impact smaller community groups, but the disadvantage of increased administrative costs. He asked if GCERF has identified successful smaller-scale projects that can be scaled up into larger programming. He said the Board reports did not mention the Global Counter-Terrorism Forum (GCTF) and would like to see its policies and recommendations within the work of GCERF where appropriate. The ED agreed to engage with existing GCTF initiatives and to work closely with the GCTF CVE Working Group, per Australia's recommendation.

6.3 The Board Member for Switzerland asked about progress on aggregated results at the national or global level to help communicate the impact of GCERF, not just through good stories and examples, but strong measurement indicators.

6.4 The Board Member for the Civil Society constituency asked about how to build structures for a sustainable commitment to communities rather than scattered opportunities for impact when discussing the pros and cons of smaller grants. He agreed that there are interesting results at the community level but is interested to see more results and indicators of change at the national level and within the bigger scope of P/CVE. The Head of Performance & Impact said the PMU does good work to ensure small grantees have the support of the Secretariat.

6.5 The Representative for the United States asked if the increase in smaller grants resulted from the decision taken at BM.10, giving the Secretariat delegation of authority over individual grants less than USD 1m without Board approval (BM.10/DEC.06). He also asked what the average grant amount is currently. The ED said the average grant value up to December 2019 is USD 650,000 (BM.12/DOC.07/FIG.10), and that this is not a result of the decision mentioned but rather of the capacity and capability of the grantees and of limited funding available to GCERF.

6.6 The Head of Performance & Impact thanked all for their inputs. He said the development of common P/CVE outcome indicators would help to aggregate results up from the community level. He said there are global indicators for particular target groups and the Secretariat also measures against these.

6.7 The ED thanked all for their inputs and assured the Board that the Secretariat will continue to work on improving its outcome indicators, per consistent requests in this regard. He also suggested that the upcoming Strategy will include a focus on capacity building towards sustainability.

## **7. PROGRAMME UPDATE**

7.1 The Chair invited the Head of the Portfolio Management Unit to provide an update on programmes (BM.12/DOC.08). The Head of Portfolio Management Unit reiterated GCERF's commitment to support grantees and build their capacity. She introduced several highlights between November 2019 and May 2020, including the addition of two new partner countries, Albania and North Macedonia, and the launch of the replenishment process of the IRP (BM.11/DEC.05). Kenya, Kosovo, and Tunisia have reported in the last couple of days that grantees began to return to regular P/CVE programming, in line with international recommendations regarding COVID-19. She highlighted the capacity-building guideline (BM.12/DOC.04/ANNEX.01), detailing how GCERF works with its grantees and the support

provided to the CSM. In addition, she introduced the virtual Communities of Practice (BM.12/DOC.04/ANNEX.02) and invited the Board to save the dates listed should they wish to participate.

7.2 The Head of Portfolio Management Unit provided a brief update on the partner countries:

- **Mali** began its second round of investment allowing a narrowed focus based on lessons learned, including a focus on talibés (religious students identified as a vulnerable group);
- The first virtual CSM meeting in **Somalia** took place, and the Secretariat is preparing to launch its Expression of Interest and a search for a National Advisor;
- **Sri Lanka** had its first virtual AFM meeting, and is launching a call for organisations interested in becoming a grantee;
- **Western Balkans Regional Programme** includes Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia, and is detailed in Section 8;
- **Sahel Regional Programme** will include Burkina Faso, Niger, and Mali, and will focus on the highly vulnerable Liptako Gourma region;
- **Bangladesh** has a new partnership with Kofi Annan Foundation to support youth leaders, which will also allow youth collaboration across Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Philippines;
- **Kenya** has a focus on impactful local-national collaboration, particularly to implement the County Action Plans on P/CVE, many of which incorporate GCTF recommendations;
- **Kosovo** will shift to focus on rehabilitation and reintegration of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families (RFTFs), to create an enabling environment for the expansion to a regional strategy;
- Peace camp participants in **Nigeria** will receive additional support through a private sector partnership;
- Launch of a second grant round in **the Philippines**, focused on existing programmes in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) and expanding into the metro Manila area and Luzon; and
- **Tunisia** work with those extremely at risk of violent extremism, to support them and their families with social and economic support.

### *Discussion*

7.3 The Representative for Canada asked for more detail on the private sector partnership in Nigeria. He would like to see the encouraging results from Mali integrated into the Sahel Regional Strategy and asked if there is a timeline for this. The Head of Portfolio

Management Unit explained the in-kind partnership offers computer and telephone repair training for the participants. She said the Sahel Regional Needs Assessment will launch this month and take about three months, followed by the creation of the Regional Strategy and fundraising.

7.4 The Representative for the Netherlands would like to hear more about the connection between GCERF programmes and other interventions, particularly in the Sahel and Bangladesh. He said it is important to focus on outcomes in addition to results and asked who will conduct the Regional Needs Assessment. He requested other interested donors help support the Western Balkans Regional Strategy so that programming may commence. He asked for an update on progress in Somalia, to which the Head of Portfolio Management Unit replied with additional information, including that grant making will ideally commence in Q320, reiterating that additional funding is needed to work sustainably in Somalia. The Head of Portfolio Management Unit said the National Advisor in Bamako is leading collaboration with donors and relevant organisations in the area; in addition, the Mali National Conference intended for the end of 2020 will bring together all P/CVE actors in the area. She said the Regional Needs Assessment will be conducted by an external, local organisation.

7.5 The Representative for the European Union would like to see programming in Mali work in cooperation with similar EU programmes in the area, particularly with talibés. He asked if the private sector partnership in Nigeria might also benefit the northwest to help counter the increasing violence. He was happy to see an improvement in Secretariat communication with local embassies and representatives. He asked for clarification on how PRs build the capacity of SRs to ensure sustainable programming in the long term. The Head of Portfolio Management Unit said there is a workplan for each PR to build capacity of its SRs, including in the initial grant application.

7.6 The Head of Portfolio Management Unit said a Country Needs Assessment will be launched in Nigeria to determine if and how GCERF should continue work there when the second round ends at the end of 2021. For the moment, Nigeria will not be included in the Sahel Regional Needs Assessment, however this can be reconsidered with additional funding and reasoning. She also said that at the moment, the Secretariat does not see a need for a National Advisor in Nigeria but it will continue to monitor the situation in case it changes.

## **8. REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR INVESTMENT IN WESTERN BALKANS**

8.1 The Chair introduced BM.12/DOC.09 to be presented, followed by a discussion and decision. The Country Manager and Focal Point for Returned Foreign Terrorist Fighters introduced the Investment Strategy for the Western Balkans which brings together two

GCERF priorities, that of operationalising the pilot on community-based reintegration and rehabilitation of returning foreign terrorist fighters and their families (RFTFs) and pursuing a regional strategy.

8.2 The Country Manager/Focal Point highlighted the purpose of the Strategy and its subsequent programming, to strengthen the network and enhance capacities of relevant actors throughout the ecosystem, including frontline workers, CSOs, community members. He also provided an overview of the events and consultations that drove the creation of the Strategy, including: (i) a regional donor meeting, (ii) partnership request letters from Albania and North Macedonia, (iii) a Regional Needs Assessment and Theory of Change, and (iv) the first two donor contributions from the Netherlands and the UK. He said the Secretariat has been actively and aggressively pursuing additional funding to ensure the Strategy can be implemented.

#### *Discussion*

8.3 The Representative for the United States said the US is committed to supporting RFTFs in the region, with USAID in the process of finalising a contribution for GCERF. He said the Strategy is a good first step in developing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes in the region, and that any continued engagement should be coordinated with donor bilateral missions and CSOs in the region to ensure complementarity.

8.4 The Chair of the IRP said the IRP reviewed and provided feedback on the Strategy and offered the support of the IRP for it. She said the IRP is pleased with two main points, that it is holistic and that it recognises the need to reduce tensions between RFTFs and the community itself. She recommends monitoring the risk mitigation closely and continuously.

8.5 The Representative for the European Union expressed support and appreciated the comprehensive Strategy, seeking complementarity to EU efforts. He acknowledged the essential role of the CSOs in engagement of RFTFs and stressed the importance of long-term engagement. The EU plans to explore additional possibilities and EU channels for funding.

8.6 The Representative for the United Kingdom expressed support for the Strategy and thanked the Secretariat for its consultations and progress to date. She looks forward to GCERF's contribution to the global knowledge base for work with RFTFs.

8.7 The Representative for New Zealand welcomed the Strategy and said the expansion of GCERF's work into additional kinds of extremism, including right wing extremism, is of particular interest to New Zealand.

8.8 The Representative for the Netherlands supported the Strategy and called on the Board to support the Strategy with additional funding.

8.9 The Representative for France praised GCERF's quick reaction to the Covid-19 situation and agreed with the statements made by his fellow Board Members on funding, proposing to discuss it in more detail at the next face-to-face meeting and find a sustainable solution. He said that the feedback from the French embassies in-countries was positive, especially for Mali where France has already invested EUR 250,000 and an additional EUR 250,000 will be confirmed shortly. He said he is open to discuss how best to allocate all or part of this contribution. Finally, he supported the Western Balkans strategy and is open for discussions on how France can financially support it, as well as noted the importance to link the Sahel strategy to the existing international initiatives, especially the one launched a few weeks ago.

8.10 France is willing to increase the OpEx ratio up from 15% and encouraged other donors to do their part.

8.11 The Representative for Switzerland supported the Strategy and also offered positive feedback from Swiss embassies in the Western Balkans. He supported the Chair of the IRP's comment on the relationship between the communities and RFTFs, and the comment by the Representative for New Zealand about exploring the various forms of extremism through this work. He asked if the Strategy will be funded through earmarked AFM funding or if it will be included in the broader pool of GCERF funding, with support for the former.

8.12 In response to a question from the Private Sector constituency, the Country Manager/Focal Point said that in order to enable an environment for reintegration, the private sector must be sensitised to the importance of providing employment opportunities for RFTFs and their families and to play a role in guarding these opportunities from discrimination and counterproductive narratives and assumptions.

8.13 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.07:** The Board:

- a. approves the GCERF Regional Strategy for Investment in Western Balkans as detailed in BM.12/DOC.09/ANNEX 1;
- b. requests the Secretariat to proceed with the establishment of the Regional Accelerated Funding Panel (RAFP) as described in Section "Country Alignment and Coordination"; and

c. authorises GCERF to commence grant-making with at least USD 2.5m and not exceeding USD 10m, as outlined in the Section "Funding", without further Board approval and in line with the GCERF Regional Strategy for Investment in Western Balkans.

## **9. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### *Finance & Audit Committee*

9.1 The Chair thanked Ambassador Mailu of Kenya for agreeing to become Chair of the Finance & Audit Committee (FAC). She also reminded the Board the FAC is still seeking members in order to formally commence.

### *Governance & Ethics Committee*

9.2 The Chair introduced BM.12/DOC.10 and invited the Chair of the Governance and Ethics Committee (GEC) to present. The Chair of the GEC provided an update on changes in membership. The Chair of the GEC presented highlights from the work of the GEC since BM.11, including: (i) the commencement of the selection process for Chair of the GCERF Governing Board (BM.11/DOC.04), (ii) discussions about the role of the Policy, Think and Do Tanks constituency, as requested at BM.11, and (iii) the possibility of extending the mandate of the Executive Director. He also noted that non-critical GEC items were delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

9.3 A dedicated discussion about the process took place on the sidelines of BM.12, on 8 June 2020, resulting in two highlights: (i) the current Chair, the ED, and the three members of the GEC who did not submit candidates will proceed to interview the four proposed candidates, and (ii) the Chair will consider the request by a Board member to accept new candidates until the end of June 2020.

9.4 The Chair of the GEC announced that per the Policy on Ethics and Conflict of Interest, no incidents linked with ethical issues were reported during the period through the Integrity Line since the 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. No gifts exceeding 25 CHF were received since the 11<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. As a result of the investigation by BDO, the GEC recommended the following change to section 6.2(a) of the Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest:

6.2 (a) A Covered Individual may accept an unsolicited Gift on behalf of GCERF when, in his or her judgment, refusal to do so would not be in the interest of GCERF. Gifts accepted and offered on behalf of the Secretariat shall be handled under procedures developed by the Secretariat.

*Discussion*

9.5 The Alternate Board Member for the Policy, Think and Do Tanks constituency thanked the GEC for their time and diligence addressing the question by the constituency, and welcomed the recommendation to proceed with discussions regarding the role of nongovernmental constituencies of the GCERF Governing Board.

9.6 The Representative for Bangladesh requested that the following step in the Chair process include one representative from those Board Members who did not submit a candidate. The Chair thanked him for his request and agreed to consider this proposal.

9.7 The Representative for the United States expressed support for the amendment to the gifts section of the Policy on Ethics and Conflicts of Interest and requested an amendment to include a specific monetary amount to the provision. The Chair requested the Chair of the GEC to consult the Secretariat regarding the possibility of adding a monetary amount into the provision.

9.8 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.08:** The Board:

a. notes the resignation of **Ms Michelle Cameron**, Canada and United Kingdom constituency, and **Ambassador Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu**, Kenya constituency, as members of the Governance and Ethics Committee, and thanks them for their service; and

b. approves the appointment of **Mr Anthony Carroll**, Private Sector constituency, and **Mr Ram Kamineni**, Canada and United Kingdom constituency, as members of the Governance and Ethics Committee in accordance with the terms of reference of the Committee.

**10. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

10.1 The Chair conducted the Executive Session at the end of the meeting where a number of matters were discussed, including the evaluation of the Executive Director, amendments to Bylaws and the Chair selection process.

10.2 The Board took the following decision:

**BM.12/DEC.09:** The Board approves a two-year extension of the current term of the Executive Director from June 2022 to June 2024, and requests a change in point 3.2(a)

of the Bylaws, approved at the 1st Board Meeting on 17-18 November 2014 and amended at the 2nd Board Meeting on 20-21 April 2015, as follows:

### 3.2 Executive Director

#### a) Appointment

The Board appoints the Executive Director using an open competitive process based on merit, in a non-political manner.

#### b) Term

The Executive Director may be appointed to serve a term of up to five years, renewable once.

#### c) Functions

The Executive Director is the head of GCERF Secretariat and selects and manages Secretariat staff under human resources, financial and other policies and procedures approved by the Board. S/he shall present in a timely way a budget for Board approval on an annual basis. The performance of the Executive Director shall be reviewed by the Board annually.

## **II. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

11.1 The Chair thanked all for their active participation at the meeting. She asked that the Board save the dates 1-2 December 2020 for the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Board, pending travel regulations due to COVID-19.

11.2 The Chair closed the meeting.

**ANNEX 1**

**BM.12/DOC.01: AGENDA**

**THURSDAY 28 MAY 2020**

Location – Virtual (12-12:45 PM CET)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
12:00 – 12:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>		Board Chair
12:10 – 12:20	<b>Technology Platform</b>		Board Chair
12:20 – 12:30	<b>Preliminary Matters</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appointment of Rapporteur</li> <li>• Approval of Agenda</li> <li>• Confirmation of new Board members</li> </ul>	DOC.01 (for decision)	Board Chair
12:30 – 12:40	<b>2019 Annual Report for Supervisory Authority</b>	DOC.02 (for decision)	Board Chair
12:40 – 12:45	<b>Any Other Business</b>		Board Chair

**MONDAY 08 JUNE 2020**

Location – Virtual (12-1:00 PM CET)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
12:00 – 12:05	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>		Board Chair
12:05 – 12:15	<b>Candidate Process Update</b>	DOC.10 ANNEXES 1-5	GEC
12:15 – 12:55	<b>Open Discussion</b>		Board Chair / GEC
12:55 – 1:00	<b>Closing Remarks</b>		Board Chair

**TUESDAY 09 JUNE 2020**

Location – Virtual (12-3:15 PM CET)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Document</b>	<b>Presenter</b>
12:00 – 12:10	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>		Board Chair
12:10 – 12:45	<b>Report of the Executive Director</b>	DOC.03 (for information)	Executive Director
12:45 – 13:30	<b>Financial Matters</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2019 Audited Statements</li> <li>• Funding Situation</li> <li>• Update on Internal Control System</li> </ul>	DOC.04 (for decision) DOC.05 (for information) DOC.06 (for decision)	Auditors (via Skype) Executive Director / Finance & Compliance Manager
13:30 – 14:15	<b>Results Programme Update Western Balkans Regional Strategy</b>	DOC.07 (for information) DOC.08 (for information) DOC.09 (for decision)	Executive Director / Head of Performance & Impact / Head of Portfolio Management Unit
14:15 – 14:30	<b>Committee Reports</b>	DOC.10 (for decision)	Chairs of the GEC / FAC
14:30 – 14:50	<b>Executive Session (Board members only):</b> Executive Director performance evaluation and consideration of Bylaws change		Board Chair
14:50 – 15:15	<b>Any Other Business</b>		Board Chair

**ANNEX 2  
PARTICIPANTS LISTS**

**PRELIMINARY SESSION**

**28 May 2020**

**Virtual**

**GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR**

Ms Carol Bellamy

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

**Australia, Japan and New Zealand**

**Board Member:** Ms Cecile Hillyer, Head, International Security and Disarmament Division, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Wellington

**Alternate Board Member:** H.E. Mr Paul Foley, Ambassador for Counter-Terrorism, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Canberra

**Constituency Members:**

Mr Chitaru Shimizu, Director, International Safety and Security Cooperation Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo

Ms Shalini Hartog, Counter-Terrorism Branch, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, Canberra

Mr Kenta Hayashi, Assistant Director, International Safety and Security Cooperation Division, Foreign Policy Bureau, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Tokyo

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**Bangladesh**

**Alternate Board Member:** H.E. Mr M. Shameem Ahsan, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva

**Constituency Member:** Mr Md Baky Billah, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the United Nations Office and Other International Organisations in Geneva

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**Canada and United Kingdom**

**Board Member:** H.E. Ms Miriam Shearman, Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations and Other International Organisations in Geneva

**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Ram Kamineni, Director, Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programs, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

**Constituency Members:**

Ms Alex Bowe, PREVENT & RICU International, Office for Security and Counter Terrorism, UK Home Office, London

Ms Katherine North, Senior Programme Manager, Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime Capacity Building Programs, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

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**Civil Society**

**Board Member:** Mr Fulco Van Deventer, Vice-Director, Human Security Collective, The Hague

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**European Union, France and Denmark**

**Board Member:** Mr Jesper Steen Pedersen, Head of Sector, Global and Transregional Threats, Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European Commission, Brussels on behalf of Mr Olivier Luyckx, Head of Unit, Stability, Security, Development and Nuclear Safety, DG DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels

**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Adrien Frier, Head of the Suppression of Terrorism and Organized Crime Department, Strategic, Security and Disarmament Directorate, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, Paris

**Constituency Members:**

Mr Adam Ravnkilde, Chief Adviser / Counterterrorism Coordinator, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Copenhagen

Ms Ilona von Bethlenfalvy, P/CVE Programme Manager, Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Programmes, DG DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels

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**Foundations**

**Board Member:** Mr Matthew Lawrence, Executive Director, Tony Blair Institute for Global Change, London

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**Kenya**

**Board Member:** H.E. Dr Cleopa Kilonzo Mailu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations Office in Geneva

**Kosovo**

**Constituency Member:** Mr Kujtim Bytyqi, Head of Analysis, Kosovo Security Council Secretariat, Pristina

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**Mali and Nigeria**

**Board Member:** Mr Tunde Mukaila Mustapha, Chargé d'affaires a.i., Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the United Nations Office in Geneva

**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Adama Coulibaly, First Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations Office in Geneva on behalf of H.E. Mr Mamadou Henri Konate, Ambassador and Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mali to the United Nations Office in Geneva

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**Private Sector**

**Board Member:** Ms Jessica Long, Managing Director, Strategy and Sustainability, North America Lead, Accenture, Washington, D.C.

**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Tony Carroll, Founding Director, Acorus Capital; Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C.

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**Qatar**

**Board Member:** H.E. Dr Mutlaq Majed Al-Qahtani, Ambassador and Special Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar for Counterterrorism and Mediation, Doha

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**Switzerland**

**Board Member:** Mr Derek Müller, Head of Division Middle East and Northern Africa and Fragility, Conflict & Human Rights Unit, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Bern on behalf of H.E. Mr Thomas Gass, Ambassador, Vice-Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Bern

**Alternate Board Member:** Dr Daniel Frank, Deputy Coordinator for International Counter-Terrorism, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Bern

**Constituency Member:** Ms Barbara Affolter Gómez, Senior Policy Advisor Fragility, Conflict & Human Rights, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Bern

**Tunisia and the Philippines**

**Board Member:** Ms Sonia Abbassi, Permanent Secretary, National Counter Terrorism Commission of the Republic of Tunisia, Tunis on behalf of Mr Rached Bettaieb, Head of the National Counter Terrorism Commission of the Republic of Tunisia, Tunis

**Alternate Board Member:** Ms Joan Tolibas, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Peace and Security, Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines, Manila on behalf of Mr Alexander Macario, Assistant Secretary, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Peace and Security, Department of the Interior and Local Government of the Republic of the Philippines, Manila

**Constituency Member:**

Ms Nourchène Mlaouah, Director Responsible for Relations with Civil society, international cooperation and training, National Counter Terrorism Commission of the Republic of Tunisia, Tunis

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**Board Member:** Mr Chris Harnisch, Deputy Coordinator, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State on behalf of H.E. Mr Nathan Sales, Ambassador and Coordinator for Counterterrorism, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Huib Mijnders, Head Counterterrorism & National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, The Hague

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Mr Geir Michalsen, Senior Adviser, Section for Global Security and Disarmament, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

Mr Irfan Saeed, Director for Countering Violent Extremism, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Ms Barbara Paoletti, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Ms Dominique Kok, Counterterrorism & National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, The Hague

**OBSERVERS**

**Albania**

Mr Agron Sojati, National Coordinator for CT/CVE, Director of the Coordinating Center for Countering Violent Extremism, Tirana

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**North Macedonia**

Mr Borce Petrevski, National CVE/CT Coordinator, Skopje

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**GCERF Secretariat**

**CHAIR DISCUSSION**

**8 June 2020**

**Virtual**

**GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR**

Ms Carol Bellamy

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**North Macedonia**

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**Somalia**

Mr Koshin Abdi Hashi, Deputy Coordinator, Preventing & Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), Federal Republic of Somalia, Mogadishu

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**Sri Lanka**

Major General Jagath Alwis, Chief of National Intelligence, Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo

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**GCERF Secretariat**

**12<sup>th</sup> GCERF BOARD MEETING**

**9 June 2020**

**Virtual**

**GOVERNING BOARD CHAIR**

Ms Carol Bellamy

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**BOARD MEMBERS**

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**Board Member:** Ms Cecile Hillyer, Head, International Security and Disarmament Division, New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Wellington

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UK Home Office, London

Ms Dorota Geissel, Deputy Director, Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime Capacity Building  
Programs, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

Ms Katherine North, Senior Programme Manager, Counter-Terrorism and Anti-Crime  
Capacity Building Programs, Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa

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Europe, London

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**European Union, France and Denmark**

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Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), European  
Commission, Brussels on behalf of Mr Olivier Luyckx, Head of Unit, Stability, Security,  
Development and Nuclear Safety, DG DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels

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of Denmark, Copenhagen

Ms Ilona von Bethlenfalvy, P/CVE Programme Manager, Preventing and Countering Violent  
Extremism Programmes, DG DEVCO, European Commission, Brussels

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Change, London

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**Kosovo**

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**Alternate Board Member:** Mr Eelco Kessels, Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security

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Ms Barbara Affolter Gómez, Senior Policy Advisor Fragility, Conflict & Human Rights, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, Bern

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Ms Mouna Mcharek Hadiji, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Tunisia to the United Nations Office in Geneva

Ms Nourchène Mlaouah, Director Responsible for Relations with Civil society, international cooperation and training, National Counter Terrorism Commission of the Republic of Tunisia, Tunis

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Mr Irfan Saeed, Director for Countering Violent Extremism, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Ms Barbara Paoletti, Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism, U.S. Department of State, Washington, D.C.

Ms Dominique Kok, Counterterrorism & National Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, The Hague

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**OBSERVERS**

**Albania**

Mr Agron Sojati, National Coordinator for CT/CVE, Director of the Coordinating Center for Countering Violent Extremism, Tirana

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**Kazakhstan**

Mr Arman Baissuanov, Minister-Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office in Geneva

---

**Spain**

Mr Marcos Granados, Counter-Terrorism Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Madrid

Mr Miguel Heine, Counter-Terrorism CT Head of Area, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, Madrid

---

**Sri Lanka**

Major General Jagath Alwis, Chief of National Intelligence, Government of Sri Lanka, Colombo

---

**GCERF Independent Review Panel (IRP)**

Ms Humera Khan, IRP Chair; President, Muflehun

---

**Qatara Fund for Development**

Ms Aisha Al Kuwari, Development Projects Researcher Third, Qatar Fund for Development, Doha

Mr Fahad Jassim Al-Dehaimi, Development Projects Researcher, Qatar Fund for Development, Doha

---

**United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

Ms Larissa Adameck, Political Affairs Officer, UNOCT, New York

Ms Tamara Anderson, Political Affairs Officer, UNOCT, New York

Dr Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director, UNOCT, New York

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**GCERF Secretariat**