



**Statement by Ms Carol Bellamy, Chair of the Governing Board, Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), to the Tenth GCTF Ministerial Plenary Meeting
25 September 2019, New York**

Excellencies,

I would like to start by thanking the GCTF Co-Chairs for providing this opportunity to report on the progress of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund – GCERF – where I chair the Governing Board. Allow me also to acknowledge the support and partnership of many of the countries represented in room.

For those of you who don't know GCERF, we were established by the Global Counterterrorism Forum in 2014, and our Secretariat is based in Geneva, Switzerland. GCERF has three hallmarks. First, as a global fund, we are a grant-making organization. Second, we exclusively fund local community-based organizations. Third, we have a specific mandate on countering and preventing violent extremism. GCERF remains the only multilateral organization dedicated to C/PVE.

In the five years since our establishment, we have made remarkable progress. We have attracted approaching USD 100m from 14 government donors plus the EU, (and of course I am deeply grateful for the new contribution just announced by Denmark's Foreign Minister). Let me note that our funding comes from diverse sources – security, development and humanitarian. We are actively supporting over 100 community-based organizations in Bangladesh, Kenya, Kosovo, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia. We will be signing new grants in the Philippines before the end of the year, and we are also exploring new partnerships with Somalia and Sri Lanka.

And let me emphasize that 90 percent of the community-based organizations we support have never received funding for C/PVE before – we are simultaneously filling a funding gap and building new capacity.

And after three years of programming, we are having an impact. Take the case of Nigeria, where we hosted a field visit for representatives from the USA, Norway, Australia and Switzerland last week. 74 percent of women who have participated in training and awareness-raising activities funded by GCERF report using their new skills to find work. Regular dialogue platforms have been established between farmers and herders in the Middle Belt. GCERF has supported 35 new peace building platforms in communities at risk of radicalisation to violent extremism.

Our programmes are also bridging the gap between local communities and local and national authorities. In Bangladesh C/PVE is now a standing item on the agenda of local Law and Order Committees. In Kenya we are supporting the implementation of three County

Action Plans on C/PVE. In the Philippines we are linking the Bangsamoro Transitional Authority with the national government through our local coordinating committee.

We are also helping build the field of C/PVE. We continue to share the lessons we have learned about what works and what doesn't in preventing violent extremism at the community level, for example regarding the role of religious and traditional leaders, engaging women and youth, the rehabilitation and reintegration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters and their families, community policing, and engaging the private sector.

I count on the continued support of GCTF and our donors and partners to build on these successes inoculating communities at risk against radicalization to violent extremism.

Thank you.