



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Inclusive Civil Society Engagement to Support Rights-based Counterterrorism Efforts at the United Nations: A Vision Forward

20 June 2023 | 8:00-9:30AM ET

UNHQ Conference Room 12 and Online

Concept Note

The [Global Center on Cooperative Security \(Global Center\)](#), the [Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\)](#), and the governments of Costa Rica, Denmark, and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, have the pleasure to invite you to the event **Inclusive Civil-Society Engagement to Support Rights-based Counterterrorism Efforts at the United Nations: A Vision Forward**, which will take place **on Tuesday, 20 June, 8:00-9:30 am ET, at the United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 12, New York City**. This is an official side-event on the margins of the Third United Nations High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, to be held from 19 to 20 June 2023.

Meaningful, diverse, and safe engagement between civil society, governments, and multilateral bodies is a prerequisite for the effective, rights-based measures to prevent violent extremism and counterterrorism. Civil society engagement in the design, development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of policies and programs is essential to ensure respect for human rights and reflect the needs and perspectives of those communities most affected by terrorist activities and countermeasures.

UN counterterrorism actors must further strengthen their policies and procedures to uphold human rights obligations, particularly through sustained meaningful, safe, and inclusive civil society engagement. This, for example, includes engaging civil society in the development of guidance and implementation of programming, inviting them to UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact meetings, and regular interactions with Resident Coordinators on relevant efforts. There are a number of existing frameworks to support such engagements, including the UN's system-wide [Community Engagement Guidelines on](#)

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[Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace](#), the Secretary-General's [Our Common Agenda](#) and his [Call to Action for Human Rights](#), and the [UN Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space](#).

This side event provides an occasion for UN, civil society, and government representatives to discuss opportunities, challenges, and practical recommendations to achieve meaningful, inclusive, and safe civil society engagement in all UN counterterrorism efforts and across all pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Agenda

8:00-8:10am Welcome remarks

- Ambassador Martin Bille Hermann, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations
- Ambassador Maritza Chan, Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations
- Ilze Brands Kehris, Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner

8:10-8:15am Introductory remarks

- Eelco Kessels, Executive Director, Global Center on Cooperative Security

8:15-9:00am Panel Discussion

- Mavic Cabrera Balleza, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
- Maji Peterx, Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Lead Facilitator and Coordinator, Carefronting Nigeria,
- Khalid Ibrahim, Executive Director, Gulf Centre for Human Rights

Moderated by Franziska Praxl- Tabuchi, Director of Multilateral Relations, Global Center

9:00-9:25am Q&A/Interventions from the floor (2 minutes max)

- Interventions are pre-registered

9:25-9:30am Closing remarks

- Mina Noor, Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands