

Roundtable Discussion on the Global PVE Agenda

26 January 2017 | New York, NY

The [Prevention Project](#), in collaboration with the [Global Center on Cooperative Security](#) convened a roundtable meeting with diplomats, UN officials, and civil society representatives, to discuss the state of the global agenda on preventing violent extremism (PVE) and some of the relevant findings and recommendations from the Prevention Project's "[Communities First: A Blueprint for Organizing and Sustaining a Global Movement against Violent Extremism](#)".

Participants discussed how a more comprehensive and strategic approach to addressing violent extremism, one that empowers local actors and focuses more attention on community-led interventions to address underlying drivers of the phenomenon, is required. This involves the development and deployment of a more dynamic and complete set of policies and programs and the involvement of a more diverse set of actors, particularly at the local level. Participants considered how the United Nations can best support this approach, which requires, *inter alia*, the development of a sustainable global network of these stakeholders that can have impact at the local level and a voice at the global level. It requires leveraging, although not co-opting, a wide array of efforts, including development, peacebuilding, good governance, and public health, that can contribute to preventing and countering violent extremism by helping address some of the grievances that fuel its spread.

Speakers were Eric Rosand, Director of the Prevention Project, and Sanam Naraghi-Anderlini, Co-Founder and Executive Director of [the International Civil Society Action Network \(ICAN\)](#) and Coordinator of the [Women's Alliance for Security Leadership \(WASL\)](#). Among other things, the speakers previewed the development of a global civil society platform for analysis, collaboration, and advocacy around the PVE agenda under the umbrella of the [Global Solutions Exchange \(GSX\)](#), an initiative launched in September 2016 on the margins of the UN General Assembly, which ICAN, the Prevention Project, and the Global Center, among others, will help spearhead.

During a discussion moderated by Global Center Managing Director Eelco Kessels, participants highlighted a number of issues and concerns. For example, (1) some national governments continue to struggle with how to ensure PVE discussions are not limited to traditional national security actors, but are expanded both horizontally (to involve non-security ministries) and vertically (to include subnational authorities and practitioners, as well as community leaders); (2) P/CVE policy and programming discussions continue to be dominated by national governments and multilateral institutions and too rarely include voices from civil society and other local actors; (3) effective, sustainable, local P/CVE programs often require a modicum of trust between law enforcement and local communities, which is all too often lacking; (4) there is a need, which the GSX will help address, for more substantive and regular interactions between governments and CSOs about P/CVE issues to inform global, regional, and national P/CVE policy and programming discussions based on local realities; and, related, (5) while many CSOs are involved implementing PVE or PVE-related projects, the civil society PVE environment is overlay fragmented, with the absence of a coherent civil society-led "pro" PVE movement that connects the many groups, individuals, and networks working on PVE at the community level.