

Press release

Participants noted that although governments bear the primary responsibility for countering terrorism and violent extremism, CSOs have the potential to be vital partners in these efforts. A whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach to counter-terrorism – including empowering youth, families, women, religious, cultural and education leaders, and all other concerned groups of CSOs to support government efforts — has become increasingly acknowledged.¹

This virtual event brought together representatives from Member States, international and regional organizations, United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Compact entities and CSOs.

In opening the event, Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, highlighted that “prevention of violent extremism cannot be successful without whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches. Prison officers alone cannot tackle the challenges.”

Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx, Executive Director of CTED noted the skills and experiences that CSOs can offer in supporting the rehabilitation and reintegration of VEPs, and recognized that their expertise and credibility among local communities can make them vital partners in addressing the challenges posed by VEPs.

Ms. Miwa Kato, Director, Division for Operations, UNODC, stressed that “civil society is uniquely positioned to contribute, to give prisoners hope, to reform, to rehabilitate, and to re-integrate back into society, as future productive citizens, providers, and parents” .

Event participants discussed concrete examples, key challenges and best practices of CSO engagement in the management of violent extremist prisoners. The event promoted and showcased the active, inclusive and meaningful participation and contr9. (4) In)-o socie(h)-3()263(t)-73(p)-42

