

# GROUP OF FRIENDS OF PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

## Concept note

### Background

Recent years have seen a steady rise in violent extremism conducive to terrorism. Violent extremist groups have perpetrated indescribable acts of violence and brutality, and caused human suffering and carnage on an unprecedented scale. Their ideologies of intolerance and violence pose a challenge to our shared values of peace, security, human rights, and the rule of law.

### Purpose

The Group of Friends of Preventing Violent Extremism as and when conducive to terrorism (PVE) seeks to promote a comprehensive approach to confront terrorism and violent extremism, that addresses the underlying conditions that drive individuals to radicalize. The Group shall seek a balanced implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with appropriate attention given to all of its four pillars, as well as the Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.

### Format

The Group of Friends of PVE currently consists of 40 UN Member States and the EU. The Group is co-chaired by Jordan and Norway. The Group meets annually at Ministerial level in the margins of the General Assembly. It also holds regular meetings in New York, at the level of Permanent Representatives and/or Experts. Participation in the Group of Friends is open to all UN Member States, subject to approval from the members of the group.

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LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK, 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

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## Objectives

- Raise awareness of the need to address the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of violent extremism and terrorism.
- Promote institutionalization of PVE across the UN system, including through coordination and cooperation between UN security, development, educational, and other relevant entities in the field and at headquarters (“One UN”).
- Provide political support to efforts by the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) and other CT entities of the UN to prevent violent extremism as part of a balanced implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.
- Share lessons learned and best practices around various topics pertaining to PVE such as the importance of good governance, human rights, gender equality, women’s and youth engagement, education, development, and rehabilitation and reintegration strategies.
- Support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremism.
- Share best practices related to the development of national strategies, expertise, and tools to effectively prevent violent extremism.
- Provide a forum for discussion and coordination between UN entities, governments, civil society, and other stakeholders to ensure streamlined and non-duplicative efforts against violent extremism.
- Highlight the importance of the full and effective participation of women and youth in efforts to prevent violent extremism.

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