

Hedayah Fact Sheet

Background:

At the September 2011 ministerial-level launch of the Global Counter Terrorism Forum, a multilateral platform comprised of 29 countries plus the European Union, the United Arab Emirates offered to host the first-ever International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (CVE). On 14 December 2012, during the GCTF Third Ministerial in Abu Dhabi, HH Sheikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Foreign Minister of the UAE, announced the official launch of this Center, named Hedayah. Hedayah, which is the English transliteration of the word for “guidance” in Arabic, was initiated in response to the growing agreement in the international community of the need to prevent individuals from starting down the path toward radicalization, as well as to divert those already on that path before they are fully committed and mobilized. Hedayah is the first international institution dedicated to addressing these challenges.

“It is only through our collective efforts and sustained commitment that we, as a global community, will be able to address one of the most pressing issues in the context of counterterrorism, namely countering violent extremism.”

Mission:

Hedayah mission is to be the premier global institution for expertise and experience in training, dialogue, and research to counter violent extremism in all its forms.

Guiding Principles

- Hedayah shall be international, independent, non-governmental, apolitical and non-ideological
- Hedayah is a “Think” and “Do” Tank
- Hedayah promotes an evidence-based practice and research
- Hedayah promotes creativity and innovation

Focus Areas:

The Center's mandate focuses on three core areas:

- 1) **Dialogue:** Providing a dedicated platform to facilitate focused discussion and collaboration among national and local actors, civil society, researchers and community leaders involved in CVE;
- 2) **Training:** Providing training and practical tools to enhance the capacities of government and non-government stakeholders to design and implement effective programs and policies to counter violent extremism;
- 3) **Research:** Cataloguing existing CVE research as well as conducting and commissioning new research to gain a deeper understanding of the drivers of violent extremism, and which approaches are effective in countering it.

Priorities:

During Hedayah's initial stages the Center will focus its efforts in a few key areas that include, but are not limited to:

- CVE through Education
 - a. Role of government in CVE through education
- Prison De-Radicalization
 - a. Disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration of former terrorists and prisoners
 - b. Prevent prisons from becoming recruiting grounds for violent extremists
- Victims of terrorism
 - a. Using victims' narratives as a method to CVE
 - b. Evaluating good practices in supporting victims
- Community Policing and Engagement
 - a. Engaging community in law enforcement activities to prevent the spread of violent extremism
 - b. Developing training programs for community policing techniques
- Sports and Cultural Diplomacy
 - a. Engaging community and youth through the use of sports
 - b. Facilitating dialogue by engaging community groups

Overview of Activities:

In order to incorporate these themes, Hedayah will organize, sponsor and host a number of activities, including but not limited to:

- Convening CVE expert brainstorming sessions
- Developing and piloting initial CVE training curricula
- Developing CVE-related networks of professionals and practitioners from around the globe
- Identifying good practices and lessons learned from current CVE projects and initiatives

- Convening workshops, meetings, seminars and conferences to promote dialogue among the international CVE community

Partnerships:

Hedayah has and will continue to build and leverage partnerships with governments, existing international and regional training centers and think tanks, relevant academic and research institutions, and multilateral organizations, as well as CVE experts and relevant private sector and non-governmental organizations from around the world. While Hedayah is independent from the GCTF, the Center will also have a close relationship with all of the GCTF members for guidance and support.

Stakeholders and partners are encouraged to support the Center in a number of ways. This includes:

- Providing voluntary financial contributions to the Center;
- Sponsoring and delivering training courses;
- Seconding staff (e.g., directors, trainers or dialogue facilitators);
- Sponsoring resident and non-resident research fellows and other visiting instructors; and
- Identifying appropriate participants for the relevant Center activities.

Multinational Governance and Staff:

The International Steering Board (ISB) will provide the Center with the necessary policy and strategic guidance. It will initially be comprised of the ten co-chairs of the five GCTF Working Groups. Hedayah will also convene an International Advisory Board, which will be comprised of international experts from different backgrounds that will help shape the content of Hedayah's activities. Hedayah's multinational staff, which will grow gradually over time, is led by a Chief Executive Officer and Chief Operating Officer and includes a mix of seconded CVE experts, direct-hires and fellows from different backgrounds.

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