New Global Fund Against Violent Extremism Led by Dr. Khalid Koser

Wednesday 4 March, 2015

Dr. Khalid Koser has been appointed Executive Director of the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund (GCERF), the first global effort to support local, community-level initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience against violent extremist agendas.

Dr. Koser, also extraordinary Professor in Conflict, Peace and Security at Maastricht University, said in Davos in early 2015:

> *There are lots of communities affected by violence and extremism that don't have access to money to find responses to this challenge. Our fund is intended to help fill that funding gap and to help communities build resilience against violent extremism.*

As a public-private partnership at the nexus of security and development, GCERF works in partnership and consultation with governments, civil society, and the private sector in beneficiary countries to support national strategies to address the local drivers of violent extremism.

Dr. Koser added:

> *My fund really is about focusing on where I think the real challenges are, and those are often in poor countries... Far more people are being killed by violent extremism and terrorism in some of the poorer countries around the world.*

In 2015 Bangladesh, Mali, Morocco, and Nigeria, have taken the lead to serve as 'pilot' countries for GCERF funding. Via local government and NGOs working at the community level, GCERF will focus its funding on communities at risk of radicalisation to violence.

To arrange an interview with Dr. Koser, please contact the UNU-MERIT press office:
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Note to Editors: *UNU-MERIT is a joint research and training institute of United Nations University and Maastricht University, based in the south of the Netherlands. The institute explores the social, political and economic factors that drive technological innovation, with a particular focus on creation, diffusion and access to knowledge. Working with its School of Governance, UNU-MERIT covers all aspects of governance in domestic and global organisations, from risk assessment to policy analysis, design and evaluation. For more details: http://www.merit.unu.edu/about-us/*

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