



# 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19-23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

## *Building an Effective and Resilient Response to the Evolving Terrorist Threat in West Africa: Implementing the Accra Initiative*

### Concept Note

#### Context

The risk of a 'spill-over' of violent extremism and terrorism from the Sahel to the West African littoral states is a significant current and emerging trend in the global threat landscape. The Accra Initiative is an African-led initiative to address this threat. In the context of the 2023 Counter-Terrorism Week, this panel discussion will focus on efforts to build community resilience as a fundamental aspect of ensuring the effectiveness and sustainability of the Accra Initiative, including through multi-stakeholder engagement and capacity-building. In addition to the co-hosts, the panel will include interventions by representatives of the EU, Burkina Faso, Togo and Mali.

Co-hosted by the United States (one of the main international donors to the Accra Initiative), Ghana (the host of the initiative), and the Global Community Engagement and Resilience Fund ([GCERF](#)), this panel will (1) provide an updated assessment of the threat of violent extremism in West Africa, (2) integrate lessons learned from preventing violent extremism in the Sahel, (3) promote an African-led initiative through international cooperation, and (4) emphasize the role of local communities in an effective response.

#### Logistics:

Location: UN Headquarters, Conference Room 11 / virtual participation via Zoom

Time: Wednesday 21 June 2023, 17:00 - 18:30 PM (EST)

#### RSVP:

To confirm your participation, please RSVP via [this link](#).

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2023 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

[www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek2023-SE](http://www.un.org/counterterrorism/CTweek2023-SE)  
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## Programme:

### 1. Opening Remarks

- Hon. Albert Kan-Dapaah, Minister of National Security of the Republic of Ghana
- Mr Ian Moss, Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S Department of State

### 2. Panel Discussion

- Moderator: Mr Stefano Manservigi, Chair of the Governing Board, GCERF
- High-level Representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Togolese Republic, Togo (TBC)
- Dr Khalid Koser, Executive Director, GCERF
- High-level Representation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Burkina Faso (TBC)
- Ms Nadia Costantini, Head of Division – Counterterrorism, European External Action Service (video statement)
- Mr Abdoul Kassim Fomba, Programme Coordinator, Think Peace, GCERF partner in Mali

### 3. Closing Remarks

- Mr Ian Moss, Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, U.S Department of State