

RELEASE IN PART
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Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism

Dear Mr. / Ms.

On behalf of the State Department, we are pleased to invite you to participate in the Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism that President Obama will host on September 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at the United Nations in New York.

The event seeks to highlight the strides the international community has made in the fight against ISIL, addressing the challenge of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), and in working to prevent and counter the spread of violent extremism. The Summit will be an opportunity to take stock of work to date, including global commitments and obligations, reflect upon lessons learned, announce concrete progress and new initiatives, and recommit to these efforts. It will focus on comprehensive and integrative approaches to degrading and ultimately defeating today's most pressing terrorists threats, confronting the ideologies espoused by terrorists, and addressing the underlying social, political, and economic drivers of violent extremism that terrorists exploit, using whole-of-society approaches that uphold human rights and the rule of law. Other participants will include leaders and other officials from some 100 countries and 20 multilateral organizations, and fellow civil society representatives.

In addition to the Leader's meeting we are pleased to invite you to participate in two nongovernmental-led, CVE side events on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly:

- The Global Youth Summit on September 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to be co-hosted by the Counter Extremism Project and Search for Common Ground, will bring together youth from around the world working to prevent violent extremism and offer them the opportunity to showcase their work, highlight success stories, and launch a network for them to enhance their work. Please find a one-page description attached.
- The Strong Cities Network event on September 29th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. will convene mayors from some 25 cities to launch the first-ever global platform for cities and other sub-national entities to share experiences and expertise, and benefit from training and other support as they look to build resilience among their communities against the spread of violent extremism. Please find a one-page description attached.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and CVE Linkages discussion on September 29th at 6:00 p.m., which will provide a unique forum for development, diplomatic and security stakeholders to discuss the relationship between these two critical agendas – the SDGs and CVE – and catalyze a debate. In addition to this in-person element, the event will include a virtual component with blogs and other papers published by thought leaders, practitioners and others.

We kindly request your RSVP to the Leaders' Summit, the Youth Event, and the Strong Cities by email to CVESummit@State.gov. For those who are able to join, the U.S. government will be able to support the cost of your travel to and stay in New York City. We will accordingly follow up with information regarding logistics once we receive your response. Please contact us directly at CVESummit@State.gov with any questions.

U.S. Department of State

CVESummit.org

CVESummit@State.gov

Leaders' Summit on Countering ISIL and Violent Extremism - Side Events

There will be a number of events organized in New York to promote key themes from the White House Summit to Counter Violent Extremism and its follow-on process.

The information below is to be used as a guide for governments, press, civil society, and the private sector.

All events are by invitation only.

If you have any questions, please refer to the point of contact listed for each event.

September 22: International CVE Research Conference, 9AM-5PM (by invitation only)

Location: International Peace Institute, 777 United Nations Plaza

POC: Alli Phillips, U.S. Institute of Peace, [REDACTED]

The conference will bring together local researchers and methodological experts from around the world to discuss how to improve understanding of community-level drivers of violent extremism and the interventions that are most effective in addressing those dynamics.

The conference will launch an international CVE research network that will include both experienced and young researchers working on CVE. In addition to providing small research grants, the network will serve as a platform to facilitate information sharing and mentoring. The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), together with other established research institutions in different regions, will help oversee the network.

September 28: Global Youth CVE Summit, 9AM-6PM

Location: Roosevelt Hotel, 45 E 45th Street

POC: Saji Prellis, Search for Common Ground, [REDACTED] and David Ibsen, Countering Extremism Project, [REDACTED]

This event, co-organized by the Counter Extremism Project and Search for Common Ground, will showcase innovative, scalable initiatives created by youth from around the world with the aim of linking their projects with private sector financial and training support. The group will craft an action agenda that will identify good practices for engaging youth in CVE and propose concrete project concepts that address the factors contributing to youth involvement in violent extremism. The event will include the launch of "one95.org" - the winning project in the June P2P CVE competition that State ran - as the global virtual platform to allow the participating youth leaders and youth-oriented organizations to stay connected going forward.

September 29: Strong Cities Network Launch, 4PM-5:30PM

Location: Trustee Council Chamber, United Nations

POC: Sarah Kennedy, Institute for Strategic Dialogue, [REDACTED]

The Strong Cities initiative is the first global network of municipal and other sub-national leaders and local government practitioners involved in building community resilience and social cohesion to counter violent extremism in their local communities. It will provide a global platform to support cities and other sub-national entities in developing effective programs and practices to address violent extremism in partnership with communities. It will also facilitate mutual learning and exchange of information between local governments and local communities on prevention. The U.S. Attorney General, Loretta Lynch, will open the meeting, which will include participation from the 20-25 mayors and governors from the cities represented on the Strong Cities' Steering Committee.

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September 29: Linkages between Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and CVE, 6PM-7:30PM

Location: Trustee Council Chamber, United Nations

POC: (Interim) Dara Katz, dkatz@usaid.gov and Russell Porter, rporter@usaid.gov

This event will provide a unique forum for development, diplomatic and security stakeholders to discuss the relationship between these two critical agendas – the SDGs and CVE – and catalyze a debate. In addition to this in-person element, the event will include a virtual component with blogs and other papers published by thought leaders, practitioners and others. The event will explore key questions, including: as the SDGs move into implementation, how can the relevant parts be reflected in national CVE strategies; how can national SDG implementation plans best address the security challenge posed by violent extremism? What opportunities does the SDG agenda present to reinforce the CVE agenda within the CT conversation, and vice versa? What are the potential pitfalls?