SOUTH ASIA SUMMIT: SUPPORTING CITY-LED EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM

AGENDA

Monday 6 December – Wednesday 8 December 2021
(Virtual event)

Monday 6 December 2021

Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in South Asia: Threats, Challenges and Lessons for Cities in the Region

15:00 Dhaka / 14:30 New Delhi / 14:00 Islamabad / 14:00 Male / 09:00 London
*(Session times listed below are Dhaka local time)*

15:00 - 15:10: Welcome – Strong Cities Network in South Asia

15:10 – 15:20: Keynote Session: Five Years on from the Holey Artisan attack: Lessons for South Asian Cities


Experts from the region will discuss the current violent extremist threats, issues and challenges facing the region today and what the implications are for cities.

16:05 – 16:50: Panel II: Multilateral cooperation: Reflecting the Voice and Perspectives of Cities and Local Actors in Multilateral P/CVE Initiatives in the Region

Representatives from multilateral bodies active in the region will discuss their P/CVE efforts in the region and how they engagement with local government and city partners on this work.

16:50 – 17:00: Wrap-up

Tuesday 7 December 2021

Empowered Cities, Informed Policy: National-Local Cooperation on P/CVE

16:00 Dhaka / 15:30 New Delhi / 15:00 Islamabad / 15:00 Male / 10:00 London
*(Session times listed below are Dhaka local time)*
16:00 – 16:10 Welcome
16:10 – 16:20 Keynote Session: GCTF National-Local Cooperation Good Practices
National government representatives will discuss the work that is taking place at the central government level to support local governments and other sub-national authorities in locally-led P/CVE efforts. Speakers will highlight some of the lessons as well as the challenges for enhancing national-local coordination on P/CVE.

17:05 – 17:50 Panel II: City-led Responses: The Role of Cities in P/CVE Efforts
Local leaders will provide snapshots of what their cities are doing to prevent and counter violent extremism. Speakers will highlight relevant local programmes and other initiatives, as well as the key challenges they face in advancing P/CVE efforts.

17:50 – 18:00 Wrap-up

Wednesday 8 December 2021

Policy to Practice: Developing Effective Multistakeholder Mechanisms for Prevention: the Role of Cities

15:00 Dhaka / 14:30 New Delhi / 14:00 Islamabad / 14:00 Male / 09:00 London
(Session times listed below are Dhaka local time)

15:00 – 15:10 Welcome: SCN


15:20 – 16:00 Panel I: Local Multistakeholder Coordination for Prevention: Experiences from Around the World
Local representatives from four cities around the world which have developed innovative multistakeholder coordination mechanisms for P/CVE will share their experiences in, lessons from, and challenges to operationalizing a “whole-of-society” approach to P/CVE at a local level.
16:00 – 16:40  Panel II: The Role of Civil Society in a “Whole-of-Society” Approach for P/CVE
Representatives from frontline community-based organisations will share their experiences in P/CVE work in their communities and beyond.

16:40 – 16:50  Keynote Session: Civil Society & Youth engagement in P/CVE

16:50 – 17:00  Wrap-up

About the Strong Cities Network

Launched at the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Strong Cities Network (SCN) is an independent global network of 150+ cities and local governments dedicated to addressing all forms of violent extremism, hate and polarisation, while promoting a human rights-based prevention framework in which local knowledge and practice informs national, regional and international approaches. The SCN is managed by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue and the SCN’s International Steering Committee provides the network with strategic guidance.

The SCN’s mission is:

1. To inspire, catalyse and multiply locally-driven, non-discriminatory, human rights-based, and gender-sensitive policies and programmes that prevent and counter violent extremism, hate and polarisation that rest upon trust-based partnerships with communities;

2. To enhance the practical implementation of programming and practice at a local level aimed at building social cohesion and community resilience to all forms of extremist and hate-motivated violence;

3. To connect sub-national leaders and practitioners from a range of disciplines, including community relations, social and health services, education, leaders from the youth community, economic development, religious affairs, local community leaders and civil society, to exchange lessons learned and provide tailored training through face-to-face and online exchanges; and

4. To elevate the voices of mayors and other local leaders and ensure the needs and priorities of cities and other sub-national authorities are reflected in national, regional, and international conversations around how to most effectively prevent violent extremism, hate and polarisation.

SCN-South Asia Activities

Since its launch, the SCN has worked closely with its member cities and partners in South Asia. In 2018, the SCN held a South Asia Regional Practitioners’ Workshop in Kolkata, India, bringing together 30 local practitioners from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the Maldives to share...
experiences and expertise and highlight challenges to and good practices for addressing the various forms of violent extremism affecting the region. The SCN team has conducted city consultations in a number of cities across Pakistan and Bangladesh to understand the local contexts, capacities and risk profiles in these locales, as well as established a number of local partnerships with civil society organisations in the India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, providing small grants and strategic support. The SCN has also facilitated city exchanges between Peshawar (Pakistan) and Birmingham, (UK). More recently, in preparation for the SCN South Asia Summit, the SCN facilitated a Bangladesh city exchange for civil society and national- and city-level government representatives to exchange good practices for P/CVE.

**SCN South Asia Summit**

This inaugural SCN South Asia Summit will bring together local and national government officials, experts, frontline practitioners and civil society organisations from across South Asia, as well as representatives from multilateral bodies, to identify, share and elevate good practices for global, national and local collaboration coordination to prevent and counter violent extremism. It will comprise a series of two-hour workshops over three days that will explore the threats facing the region today, the state of cooperation between and among global, national and local actors around P/CVE in the region, and how best to elevate the perspectives, lessons and experiences of cities and other local actors in addressing extremist violence in the region.