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Cultivate Prosperity

Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

"Building Resilience of Communities to Prevent Radicalization to Terrorism"

Remarks by Humera Khan, President, Muflehun

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Good afternoon, Mr. Chair, Members of the CTC, Mr. Chen and my friends from CTED,

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this open briefing. It is an honor to be here with esteemed colleagues and panelists.

Today, I will be discussing recent innovations in enhancing community resilience, through the application of data analytics and explainable machine learning, to inform community resilience, safety and local violence prevention strategies.

Over the past decade, through resolutions 2178 (2014), 2354 (2017), 2250 (2015), 2419 (2018), 2535 (2020) and 2396 (2017), the Security Council has recognized the need to empower and support cities, local communities and municipalities in preventing terrorism, the role of the whole of society, the need for consultation across all stakeholders, and the strengthening of public and private partnerships. The implementation of these requires sustained commitment and resources from member states.

In a world of limited resources, limited capacities and competing priorities, the challenging questions that decision makers face include:

- Identifying the specific vulnerabilities unique to their locations.
- Strategically allocating resources to maximize the impact of prevention efforts.

In response to these challenges, Muflehun has developed the "Community Resilience Early Warning System" (CREWS), with funding from the US Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Canada.

CREWS employs advanced data analytics to support decision-makers prioritize risk and protective factors for primary prevention of violence, to ensure legislation, budgets, and programs align with local vulnerabilities and needs. Our objective is to build data-informed community resilience strategies while respecting human rights, civil liberties, and privacy.

Aligned with the principles of the resolutions previously mentioned (SCR 2178, 2354, 2250, 2419, 2535 and 2396), CREWS has been successfully implemented in various US locations and is currently being implemented in Canada.

CREWS uses a public-health informed approach, utilizing the Socio-Ecological Model (SEM) to understand community vulnerabilities at both exosystem and macro-system level. The system leverages:

1. **Data analytics** for prioritizing risk factors for mitigation and for enhancing protective factors.
2. **Contextual collaboration** with relevant stakeholders across sectors.
3. **Joint assessments** using quantitative and qualitative analysis for developing recommendations.

CREWS is grounded in decades of peer-reviewed academic research. It uses data across seven (7) categories, seventeen (17) subcategories and over seventy (70) factors over the past two decades to train its models. The categories include Demographics, Education, Economy, Health, Neighborhood Dynamics, Public Safety and Social Cohesion.

It is important to note that there is NO Personally Identifiable Information (PII) in the system. We are not trying to predict individual attacks; the objective of CREWS is to build and inform community resilience strategies.

CREWS data analytics include factor analysis using a correlation matrix to understand inter-factor relationships. That is followed by model outputs that provide a ranked list of each risk and protective factor based on its contribution to vulnerability over time.

The insights from our data analytics are visualized through dashboards- they serve as a foundational tool for engaging a broad spectrum of stakeholders essential to the community resilience strategy.

Applications of CREWS include strategies for the primary prevention of domestic terrorism, ideologically motivated violent extremism, targeted violence (including mass shootings and school gun incidents), hate crimes, gun-related violence, and broader public safety measured by crime severity indices.

Key learnings from the development and deployment of CREWS highlight:

- There is a critical need for tailored local strategies aligned with local interests,
- The CREWS data-informed process is effective at localization and diverse partner engagement.
- The capacity for data analytics is limited at the local governance level however there is a recognition that a data-informed approach using machine-learning is essential to tackle the challenges of today.

Thank you for your attention. I look forward to the comments and discussion later.