

Open meeting on
“Countering terrorist narratives and
preventing the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes”

United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

Thursday, 19 October 2023, 10.00 a.m.–1.00 p.m. EDT

Closing Statement of

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abushahab

Chair

Counter-Terrorism Committee

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It has been a pleasure to chair today's meeting, and I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the representatives of Member States, international and regional entities, civil society organisations, private companies, and academia that have joined us.

The evolving and multifaceted threat posed by terrorist narratives demands vigilance. Organized in accordance with Security Council resolution 2354 (2017), this meeting has emphasized key developments in countering terrorist narratives, including recent developments in ICT such as the role of artificial intelligence in shaping future terrorism threats and prospects for counter-terrorism.

Given the challenging environment created by these dangerous kinds of messages, the value of credible, positive messaging can play a vital role in our overall efforts. I am grateful to the representative from the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect for their insights on efforts to address these threats.

Our distinguished panelists have offered important insights into terrorist narratives, emphasizing preventive measures such as countering these narratives and means for

evaluating their efficacy. They have highlighted the merits of public-private partnerships and comprehensive approaches in countering these narratives, while underlining the significance of promoting positive alternatives to audiences susceptible to terrorist narratives.

Although Member States have the primary responsibility in countering terrorist activities, addressing the challenge of countering terrorist narratives necessitates a multifaceted and adaptable strategy based on our collective commitment. Important contributions to these efforts can be made by a wide range of actors, including youth, families, women, religious, cultural, and education leaders, and other concerned groups of civil society. Governments, the private sector, civil society, and academia should all work cooperatively to promote a balanced, comprehensive, and effective approach.

It is essential to emphasize that all measures taken by Member States to counter terrorism, including those aimed at countering terrorist narratives, must comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

In conclusion, I trust that the valuable perspectives shared during today's meeting will strengthen our collective resolve and efforts to effectively amplify positive narratives, to provide credible alternatives, and to address issues of concern to audiences who are vulnerable to terrorist narratives.

Thank you.