



VIRTUAL DIALOGUE WITH  
**HUMAN RIGHTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY PARTNERS ON BUILDING  
A BETTER PARADIGM TO PREVENT AND COUNTER TERRORISM**

..... 25-26 MAY 2021 .....

## CONCEPT NOTE

### 1. BACKGROUND

Following the need to postpone *the Málaga Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism* due to COVID-19 and to ensure an in-person event in **early 2022**, a virtual two-day dialogue focused on human rights and civil society in the context of counter-terrorism has been planned to maintain the momentum ahead of the 7<sup>th</sup> Biennial Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The two half-day Virtual Dialogue with human rights and civil society partners is scheduled on **25 and 26 May 2021** under the theme “*Building a Better Paradigm to Prevent and Counter Terrorism.*” The Dialogue will focus on two main streams of discussion:

- Human rights and prevention; and
- The role of Civil Society in preventing and countering terrorism/ Protecting rights of Victims of Terrorism

### 2. OPENING SESSION:HUMAN RIGHTS AND PREVENTION: BUILDING A BETTER COUNTER-TERRORISM PARADIGM

The opening session of the Dialogue will be moderated by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, will deliver a video message. The session will also feature high-level keynote speakers from the Kingdom of Spain, along with representatives from the African Union, OHCHR, UN Women and the Global Centre for Cooperative Security.



This session will provide a strategic overview of the centrality of human rights and engagement of civil society in the counter-terrorism and explore how governments, parliamentarians, civil society, and other key stakeholders can tackle terrorism and violent extremism across the ideological spectrum, while fully protecting and promoting human rights. This session will also address the gender dimensions of counter-terrorism efforts. This includes discussions on: the threats faced by women human rights defenders and peacebuilders from terrorism and violent extremism; the impact of terrorism and violent extremism, as well as CT/PCVE, on women's human rights; and the potential role of women organizations in preventing radicalization.

### **3. SESSION I: THE IMPERATIVE OF RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS IN COUNTER-TERRORISM EFFORTS**

This session will be moderated by Ms. Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. The session will include presentations of positive case studies from around the world demonstrating the practical benefits of promoting and protecting human rights and the rule of law in regional, national, and local counter-terrorism efforts. The session will also explore practical guidance and tools for practitioners on how to integrate counter-terrorism approaches with human rights protection. It will feature keynote speakers from Member States, UN entities, and civil society.

### **4. SESSION II: ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN PREVENTING AND COUNTERING TERRORISM/ PROTECTING RIGHTS OF VICTIMS OF TERRORISM**

The two segments of this session will be moderated by Mr. Raffi Gregorian, the Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

#### **Part A: Role of Civil Society**

The panel members of this first segment will include representatives from the EU, United Nations and civil society who will take a closer look at the increased pressure on civil society organisations during the pandemic and examine its implications for ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. The session will also highlight the importance and explore practical steps to ensure civic space and uphold freedom of expression, while implementing counter-terrorism measures.

#### **Part B: Victims of Terrorism: Women's Voices of Spain**

This second segment will start with an opening statement by Mr. Jehangir Khan, Director of UNCCT, UN Office of Counter-Terrorism. It will feature keynote speech by the Ministry of Interior, Kingdom of Spain. "Victima", a documentary featuring female victims of terrorism in Spain, will also be premiered in this segment. The documentary maker and one of the victims will



highlight the importance of ensuring women's victims voices are heard, and need to have a gendered perspective to ensure the unique rights and needs of female victims are taken into account.

## 5. CLOSING SESSION

The closing session will be moderated by USG Voronkov and will focus on Member States' priorities on human rights and civil society engagement in the context of the General Assembly's 7th Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS), scheduled to take place in June 2021.

## 6. PARTICIPATION, FORMAT AND BUDGET

- All UN Member States will be invited to participate. The list of invitees will be determined jointly by UNOCT and the Permanent Mission of Spain.
- To facilitate participation in this virtual event, a detailed logistical and technical note has been prepared.
- All sessions will be open to civil society.
- All panels will be diverse and inclusive.
- Gender parity will be ensured for speakers in all sessions.
- The Dialogue will feature chat, live Q&A and video screening.
- In coordination with the Permanent Mission of Spain, a communications plan will be implemented before and during the virtual Dialogue to enhance visibility.

## 7. OUTCOME

A summary report of the virtual dialogue will be prepared ahead of the 7th Biennial Review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (GCTS) to highlight that the respect for human rights and a whole-of-society approach is fundamental to effectively preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism in line with the Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights. The report may include practical ideas and recommendations for Member States, regional and international organisations and CSOs on measures to strengthen the role of human rights and meaningful civil society engagement while implementing the GCTS.



## 8. CONTACT POINTS:

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