

**Remarks by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov,
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Open Briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
to present the proceedings and outcomes of the Committee's Special Meeting on countering
the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes
(held on 28-29 October 2022, in India)**

2 December 2022, 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. (CR 1, UN HQ)

Madam Chair,
Acting Executive Director Chen,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to thank you for inviting me to share the perspective of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism on the outcome of the recent special meeting held by the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee in India. I had the honour to represent Secretary-General António Guterres at this meeting.

Let me first express my deep appreciation to the Government of India for its generous hospitality, the excellent arrangements made for the special meeting, and the tribute to victims of terrorism organized in Mumbai on the first day.

I would also like to thank colleagues and friends from the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate – Acting Executive Director Chen and his team – for their central role in helping to make the meeting a success.

I commend the Committee's leadership in placing a special focus on the challenges and threats posed by new and emerging technologies in the context of countering terrorism. And I am especially encouraged by the Committee's consensus adoption of the Delhi Declaration. It is a good message on the eve of the next, eighth review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The impact of new technologies is a strategic matter which needs to stay on top of the multilateral counter-terrorism agenda. We need to work together to ensure that Member States' responses, and the support provided to them, remain fit for purpose in the digital era, and anchored in international law.

I salute the opportunity you gave to civil society, academia, and the private sector to inform the deliberations in the run-up to and during the special meeting. Maintaining a whole-of-society approach is critical to understand and address the multiple ways in which counter-terrorism and new technologies intersect, including through the lenses of human rights and gender equality.

New technologies are growing exponentially in their development, spread and impact, primarily as a force for good but also with the potential to be used for criminal purposes, or as a mechanism for abusing human rights. This has come into sharper, more urgent focus in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Last year, the Second High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States and the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy put significant emphasis on this challenge.

The Delhi Declaration adds further momentum, and we need to capitalize on this development. For the United Nations system, this means growing opportunities for collaboration on new technologies as a cross-cutting priority. My Office pursues this through its policy, coordination and capacity-building mandates.

New technology is also integral to the efforts of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact to promote the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its seventh review. It is a priority mainstreamed across our inter-agency working groups, including the working group that focuses specifically on Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection, chaired by the International Criminal Police Organization.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism has also launched several capacity-building initiatives in line with its mandate on new technologies.

Through our global programmes, we are working with our partners, including the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, the International Criminal Police Organization, the United Nations Office of Information and Communications Technology, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute, to help Member States to harness new technologies responsibly, and mitigate the risks of new technologies being used for terrorist purposes.

This support includes:

- Developing technological solutions, such as our goTravel software to counter terrorist travel and the future goFintel software to counter terrorism financing;
- Leveraging the capabilities of unmanned aircraft systems for border security and border management, digital forensics and cybersecurity, while building capacities to address threats emanating from these systems;

- Conducting research, for instance on artificial intelligence, weapons of mass destruction, and video games;
- Promoting public-private partnerships, for instance to address the use of cryptocurrencies for terrorism financing;
- Developing new skills, for instance for social media investigations, and on the use of micro unmanned aerial systems by law enforcement;

and

- Promoting good practices, for instance on using and sharing biometrics, and on protecting vulnerable targets.

Madam Chair,
Dear Colleagues,

We will continue to work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, through our partnership under Security Council resolution 2617 (2021), to ensure synergies between these efforts and the work to be undertaken to follow up on the Delhi Declaration.

We especially look forward to contributing to, and incorporating in our work, the non-binding principles to assist member states to counter the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, as well as the capacity gap analysis and threats and trends analysis that the Committee has proposed to develop.

This is an important undertaking, but given its benefits for Member States' counter-terrorism efforts, we will work together with pleasure.

Thank you.