

Opening Remarks by Dr. Jehangir Khan Director, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre

Panel Discussion on Cyber and New Technologies in the Context of Counter-Terrorism organized jointly by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

8 December 2022, 12:00 - 13:30 Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to today's panel discussion on cyber and new technologies in the context of counter-terrorism.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to His Excellency, Mr. Bae Jongin, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and the Permanent Mission for their support to this joint effort.

I am happy to see our partners from Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute present in the panel.

Dear colleagues,

The General Assembly Declaration for the 75th anniversary of the United Nations points to the unprecedented opportunities and new challenges presented by digital technologies, including their malicious use.

In the 7th Review of United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly requested the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to support innovative measures and approaches to build the capacity of Member States for the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide in preventing and countering terrorism.

These efforts are spear-headed by the Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre, working in partnership with the Global Counter-Terrorism Co-ordination Compact and its entities such as UNICRI, CTED, and INTERPOL.

The Republic of Korea is an important partner of these efforts.

With your contribution, this year, the Programme, in collaboration with the International Telecommunications Union, delivered three regional cyber-drills for Central Asia, Americas and the Indo-Pacific.

The Programme also delivered first of a kind cybersecurity and counter-terrorism exercise for cities, to strengthen their arrangements of responding to a ransomware attack.

Cybersecurity of critical infrastructures from terrorist cyber-attacks is just one area of cyber-enabled terrorism.

The use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists is continuously taking new forms.

It includes the Internet, social media, dark web, virtual assets, and automated and remotely operated systems.

Video games and artificial intelligence may offer new opportunities for countering terrorism, but it may as equally be abused by terrorists.

We need to maximise the benefits and mitigate the risks of digital transformation in order to effectively tackle new and emerging threats from terrorist actors.

Dear colleagues,

Today, we are discussing the challenges and opportunities of cyber and new technologies in countering terrorism as part of the efforts to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The panel discussion will specifically focus on current and emerging issues relating to Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems, video games and law enforcement responses as well as UNOCT's capacity building support and remaining gaps.

Let me conclude by wishing you a very fruitful discussion. We look forward to continuing working with UNICRI, CTED our other partners and generous supporters like the Republic of Korea and the European Union, to assist requesting Member States in this challenge.

Thank you.