

## **Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

### **Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering terrorist narratives and preventing terrorist use of the Internet**

*New York, 29 May 2018*

#### **I. Introduction**

1. Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) directs the Committee, with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), to organize at least one open meeting annually to review global developments in countering terrorist narratives. It further requests the Committee and CTED to recommend ways for Member States to enhance their efforts in the field of countering terrorist narratives. The resolution also stipulates that all measures taken by Member States to counter terrorism, including to counter terrorist narratives, must comply with their obligations under international law, including international human rights law, international refugee law, and international humanitarian law.

2. Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) welcomes the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (hereinafter “the Framework”) issued by the Security Council as document S/2017/375, with recommended guidelines and good practices to effectively counter the ways that ISIL (Da’esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities use their narratives to encourage, motivate, and recruit others to commit terrorist acts. Pursuant to Council resolution 2354 (2017), the Committee and CTED continue to facilitate international cooperation to implement the Framework; identify and compile existing good practices; and provide clear direction, guidelines and technical support, as required.

3. Security Council resolutions 2395 (2017) and 2396 (2017) took note of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) and called on the GIFCT to continue to increase engagement with Governments and technology companies globally. It recognized the development of the CTED-ICT4Peace “Tech Against Terrorism” initiative and its efforts to foster collaboration with representatives from the technology industry, including smaller technology companies, civil society, academia, and Government to disrupt terrorists’ ability to use the Internet in furtherance of terrorist purposes, while also ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) recalls the right to freedom of expression, reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1948 (“the Universal Declaration”), and recalling also the right to freedom of expression in Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted by the General Assembly in 1966 (“ICCPR”) and that any restrictions thereon shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary on the grounds set out in paragraph 3 of Article 19 of the ICCPR.

#### **II. Objective of proposed open meeting**

5. The objective of the proposed open meeting would be to assist the Committee in encouraging States to better align their efforts in the field of countering terrorist narratives with the Framework and the guidelines contained in Council resolution 2354 (2017). Specifically, participants would be encouraged to:

- i. Share information on trends and developments in terrorist narratives and effective measures to

- counter them, as well as on ways to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of such measures;
- ii. Discuss the benefits of a whole-of-society approach to countering terrorist narratives that involves a broad range of actors, including Governments, as well as youth; families; women; religious, cultural, and educational leaders; and other concerned civil-society actors;
  - iii. Share information on the benefits of countering terrorist narratives by amplifying positive and credible alternatives to audiences vulnerable to extremist messages;
  - iv. Identify and analyse key aspects of terrorist exploitation of information and communications technologies (ICT), including the Internet, to disseminate terrorist narratives;
  - v. Discuss ways to strengthen public-private sector engagement in countering terrorist narratives, both online and offline, including with respect to the Tech Against Terrorism initiative and the work of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter-Terrorism (GIFCT);
  - vi. Share best practices and knowledge on Member States' compliance with international legal standards, including international human rights law, in this context, with respect in particular to the rights to freedom of expression and privacy;
  - vii. Continue research into the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism in order to develop more focused counter-narrative programmes.
6. Representatives of Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions and think tanks would be invited to attend the meeting.

### **III. Format of discussions**

7. The open meeting would follow a “presentation-and-discussion” format in order to encourage interactive dialogue on the relevant provisions of resolution 2354 (2017) and the Framework.
8. The Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs would act as meeting Chairs and/or moderators.
9. The participants would be invited to focus on the above aspects of efforts to counter terrorist narratives. To ensure sufficient time, panellists would be requested to give an 8-to-10- minute presentation, and all participants would be requested to submit their written statements to CTED. CTED would circulate an annotated agenda, meeting documentation, and other logistical information, which would also be posted on the website.
10. The one-day meeting would include four thematic sessions, each focusing on a particular aspect of the main theme and addressing the latest trends, updates and expert perspectives on advancing counter terrorist narratives. The thematic sessions would be followed by interactive dialogue. Member States would be encouraged to share their success stories and challenges in the implementation of resolution 2354 (2017) and the Framework.

### **IV. Panellists**

11. Representatives of Member States; relevant international, regional and subregional organizations; and other experts would be invited to serve as panellists. CTED would submit an updated list of participants closer to the event.

## **V. Date and venue**

12. The proposed open meeting would be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 29 May 2018, in Conference Room 4, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. (including a lunch break from 1.00 to 3.00 p.m.).

## **VI. Proposed outcome**

13. In accordance with resolution 2354 (2017) and the outcomes of the discussions held during the open meeting, CTED would continue to work with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (OCT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) and other relevant United Nations agencies, including through consultations with the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), to promote appropriate human rights-based efforts to recognize and counter incitement and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, in accordance with Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) and 2178 (2014), and recruitment to terrorist groups. Panellists' final written statements would be posted on the Committee's website.

14. CTED would keep the Committee informed on a regular basis concerning the implementation of the work plan developed pursuant to resolution 2354 (2017), including through periodic briefings to the Committee.