

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

*United Nations Headquarters, New York, 29 May 2018*

*Conference Room 4, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.*

**Opening statement of**

**H.E. Mr. Gustavo Adolfo Meza-Cuadra Velasquez**

delivered by H.E. Mr. Francisco Tenya,  
Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative  
of the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

I am pleased to welcome you to this open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering terrorist narratives and preventing terrorist use of the Internet.

I would like to acknowledge both the representatives of Member States, of international and regional organizations, as well as of civil society and private sector. Thank you for your active engagement. I would also like to welcome on the podium the Executive Director of CTED, Madame Michele Coninx.

For those of you active on social media: we would encourage you to include the **hashtag #CTNarratives** in your posts about this meeting; this hashtag is also visible on the electronic signs on your desk.

In an increasingly interconnected world, we are all affected by the consequences of acts of terrorism that seek to undermine our beliefs, our values and our way of living.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has paid close attention to the challenges of countering terrorist narratives, and preventing terrorist abuse of the Internet and other social media, as part of our commitment to supporting States in their counter-terrorism efforts.

In its presidential statement of 11 May 2016, , the Security Council recognized the urgent need to counter the ways in which ISIL, Al-Qaida, and associated terrorist entities use narratives, including distorted religious narratives, to encourage, motivate and recruit others to commit terrorist acts.

This PRST led the way to, in 2017, a “**Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives**”, which consists of three elements: (i) legal and law enforcement measures in accordance with international law, including the relevant United Nations resolutions; (ii) the development of public-private partnerships; and (iii) the development of counter-narratives.

In resolution 2354, adopted one year ago, the Council encouraged the international community to take action in this critical domain, and stated that efforts to counter terrorist narratives can benefit through **engagement with a wide range of actors**, including youth, families, women, religious, cultural, and education leaders, and other concerned groups of civil society.

In our meeting today, we should bear in mind the international community’s deep concern over **incitement to commit terrorist acts**, recognized by the Council in its resolution 1624 of 2005.

There is growing concern that information and communications technologies have been persistently exploited by terrorist groups, including for purposes of terrorist incitement, using explicitly violent content and messages that seek to promote and glorify acts of terrorism.

Narratives that glorify or incite terrorist violence should be denied public access. At the same time, it is important to bear in mind the invaluable benefits that the **open Internet** brings to our societies. Every measure taken to fight against terrorist narratives, like all counter-terrorism measures, must be in line with international human rights law, including the **rights to privacy and freedom of expression**. The Security Council has been very clear on this point.

As noted by the Committee's Comprehensive International Framework, **public-private partnerships are** critical for keeping the Internet space as hostile as possible to terrorist groups, while at the same time as open as possible for society at large.

The industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) should continue increasing its engagement between Governments and technology companies globally. They also recognized the "Tech Against Terrorism" initiative and its efforts to strengthen collaboration with the technology industry.

Finally, let us not forget that counter-narratives should aim not only to refute terrorists' messages, but also to amplify **positive narratives**, to provide credible alternatives, and address issues of concern to vulnerable audiences who are subject to terrorist narratives.

While terrorism cannot be justified under any circumstances, terrorist narratives often seek to exploit grievances that in many cases have a legitimate basis. Effective counter-narratives should include positive messaging that promotes community solidarity and peaceful avenues for addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. This is one way to achieve effective and long-term results.

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,*

While Member States bear the main responsibility for achieving these aims, our success also requires the knowledge, expertise and active support of relevant international and regional organizations, the private sector, community and religious leaders, and civil society.

In this regard, I am certain that our discussions will be fruitful and constructive. I thank CTED for organizing this event, and I look forward to today's open meeting.

*Thank you.*