

**Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
“Countering terrorist narratives and preventing the use
of the Internet for terrorist purposes”**

United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber

Wednesday, 18 October 2023, 3.00–6.00 p.m.

Background note

I. Introduction

1. The international community has long been concerned by the narratives espoused and communicated by terrorist groups and the impact of these messages on recruitment, fundraising, and the planning and perpetration of terrorist acts. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) adopted the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (“the Comprehensive International Framework”), issued as a document of Council, in April 2017 ([S/2017/375](#)). The Comprehensive International Framework, which contains recommended guidelines and good practices to effectively counter the ways that Da’esh, Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities use their narratives to encourage, motivate, and recruit others to commit terrorist acts, was subsequently adopted by the Security Council in resolution [2354 \(2017\)](#).

2. In its resolution 2354 (2017), the Security Council directed the CTC, 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. The most recent open meeting in accordance with resolution 2354 (2017) was held on 24 March 2022. It further requested the Committee, with the support of CTED and in consultation with the then Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) (now the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities) and other key actors, to facilitate international cooperation to implement the Comprehensive International Framework; to identify and compile existing good practices; to provide clear direction, guidelines, and technical support, as required; and to recommend ways for Member States to enhance their efforts in the field of countering terrorist narratives. Additionally, the Council stipulated 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.

3. In its resolutions [2395 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#) and [2617 \(2021\)](#), the Security Council takes note of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) and calls upon GIFCT to continue to increase its engagement with Governments and technology

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companies globally. In these resolutions, the Security Council also recognizes the development of the CTED-initiated public-private partnership Tech Against Terrorism (TaT), as well as TaT's efforts to foster collaboration with representatives of the technology industry, including smaller/start-up technology companies, civil society, academia, and Governments to disrupt terrorists' ability to use the Internet in furtherance of terrorist purposes, while also ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. In its resolution 2617 (2021), the Council recognizes CTED's work on countering the use of the Internet, other information and communications technologies, and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. In the [Delhi Declaration on Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes](#), adopted by the CTC at its special meeting held in Mumbai and New Delhi on 28 and 29 October 2022, the Committee recalled the Comprehensive International Framework and Security Council resolution 2354 (2017). The Committee further emphasized the need for Member States to act cooperatively to prevent and counter the use of new information and communications technologies (ICT), and other emerging technologies, for terrorist purposes, including recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as the financing, planning and preparation of their activities. The Committee also stressed the importance of cooperation with civil society and the private sector. The CTC additionally decided to develop recommendations on the three themes covered at the special meeting, including countering terrorist exploitation of ICT and emerging technologies. In this regard, the CTC expressed its intention to develop, with the support of CTED, a set of non-binding guiding principles to assist Member States to counter the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, including by compiling good practices with regard to the opportunities offered by the same set of technologies to counter the threat, consistent with international human rights and international humanitarian law.

5. In its resolution 2354 (2017), the Security Council stressed the importance of the role of the media, civil and religious society, the business community and educational institutions in those efforts to enhance dialogue and broaden understanding, and in promoting tolerance and coexistence, and in fostering an environment which is not conducive to incitement of terrorism, as well as in countering terrorist narratives. Terrorist narratives can include the use of hatred and intolerance to radicalize others to terrorism.

II. Objectives of open meeting

6. The objective of the open meeting is to, in accordance with resolution 2354 (2017), review developments globally in countering terrorist narratives, and to assist the Committee in encouraging States to better align their efforts in the field of countering terrorist narratives with the Comprehensive International Framework and guidelines contained in resolution 2354 (2017), while also taking into consideration recent developments mandated by the Security Council, such as resolution [2617 \(2021\)](#) and [S/PRST/2022/7](#). Specifically, participants will be encouraged to:

- i. Share information on trends and developments regarding terrorist narratives, and effective measures to counter them (online and offline), including by amplifying positive and credible alternatives to audiences vulnerable to terrorist narratives, as well as on ways to measure and evaluate the effectiveness of such measures;
- ii. Build on existing public-private partnerships on this topic, including with respect to the TaT initiative and the work of GIFCT, and explore lessons learned from, and the possible expansion of, such partnerships, including those related to countering incitement to terrorism.
- iii. Discuss the benefits of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to countering terrorist narratives that involves a broad range of actors, including youth, families, women, as well as religious, cultural, and educational leaders, and other concerned civil society actors;
- iv. Identify and analyse key aspects of terrorist exploitation of ICT, including the Internet and social media, to disseminate terrorist narratives including those that use hatred and intolerance to radicalize others to violence;
- v. Share good practices and knowledge of 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;
- vi. Encourage continued research into the drivers of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism in order to develop more focused counter-narrative programmes.

7. Representatives of Member States, international, regional and subregional organizations, civil society, the private sector, academic institutions, and think tanks will be invited to attend the open meeting.

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III. Format of discussions

8. The open meeting will follow a “presentation-and-discussion” format in order to encourage interactive dialogue on the relevant provisions of resolution 2354 (2017) and the Comprehensive International Framework.

9. The Chair of the CTC will chair the meeting while moderators will assist the Chair by moderating respective segments under the guidance of the Chair.

10. The participants will be invited to focus on the above-mentioned aspects of Member States’ efforts to counter terrorist narratives. In order to ensure sufficient time, panellists will be requested to give a maximum of 8-minutes for their presentations. All panellists will be required to submit their written remarks to CTED at least three days in advance, and the Chair of the CTC, supported by SCAD, will circulate meeting documentation, and other logistical information, which will also be posted on the Committee’s website.

11. The half-day open meeting will include two thematic segments, each focusing on a particular aspect of the main theme, including the latest trends, updates, and expert perspectives on countering terrorist narratives. The segments will be followed by interactive dialogue. Member States will be encouraged to share their lessons learned, including success stories and challenges, in the implementation of resolution 2354 (2017) and the Comprehensive International Framework.

IV. Panellists

12. Representatives of relevant international, regional and subregional organizations and other experts will be invited to serve as panellists. CTED will submit an updated list of panellists closer to the event.

V. Date and venue

13. The proposed open meeting will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, on Wednesday, 18 October 2023, in the ECOSOC Chamber.

VI. Outcomes

14. In accordance with resolution 2354 (2017), the outcome of the meeting is to ensure that global developments in countering terrorist narratives are reviewed.

15. In addition, consistent with resolution 2354 (2017) and based on the briefings received and outcomes of the discussions held during the open meeting, the CTC, supported by CTED, will continue to work with UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact

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entities, including the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Department of Global Communications, and other relevant United Nations entities, including through consultations with the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Working Group on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Conducive to Terrorism, to promote appropriate human rights-based efforts to recognize and counter incitement to terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recruitment to terrorist groups.

16. The panellists' written statements will be posted on the Committee's website.