

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

*United Nations Headquarters, New York, Economic and Social Council Chamber,
Wednesday, 23 March 2022, 3.00-6.00 p.m.*

Background note

I. Introduction

1. [Security Council resolution 2354 \(2017\)](#) directs the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the support of its Executive Directorate (CTED), to organize at least one open meeting annually to review global developments in countering terrorist narratives. It further directs the Committee, with the support of CTED, to recommend ways for Member States regarding capacity building to enhance their efforts in the field of counter terrorist narratives, including through assistance provided by CTITF member entities and other assistance providers. The resolution also states 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. In its resolution 2354 (2017), the Council welcomes the Comprehensive International Framework to Counter Terrorist Narratives (hereinafter “the Framework”), issued by the 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. Consistent with Security Council resolution 2354 (2017), the Committee and CTED continue to facilitate international cooperation to implement the Framework, and they continue to identify and share existing good practices.
3. Security Council resolutions [2395 \(2017\)](#), [2396 \(2017\)](#) and [2617 \(2021\)](#) take note of the industry-led Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) and call on the GIFCT to continue to increase its engagement with Governments and technology companies globally. The resolutions recognize 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 (ICT), and other emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms.

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4. With respect to measures against incitement, Security Council resolutions 1624 (2005) and 2354 (2017) recall the right to freedom of expression reflected in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948 and the right to freedom of expression set forth in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) adopted by the Assembly in 1966, and also recall that any restrictions thereon shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary on the grounds set out in of article 19, paragraph 3, of the ICCPR.

5. In the outcome document of the special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee commemorating the adoption of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and the establishment of the Committee, held on 4 November 2021, the Committee urges Member States to act cooperatively when adopting national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology and communications for terrorist acts, as well as to continue voluntary cooperation with the private sector and civil society to develop and implement more effective means to counter the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, including by developing counter-terrorist narratives and through innovative technological solutions, all while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with domestic and international law.

II. Objectives of open meeting

6. Pursuant to the Committee's approved 2021 annual list of regional and thematic briefings, 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 above-mentioned Comprehensive International Framework, with recommended guidelines and good practices. 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 terrorist narratives;
- iv Identify and analyse key aspects of terrorist exploitation of ICT, including the Internet and social media, 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 TaT initiative and the work of the GIFCT
- vi Share good practices and knowledge of Member States' compliance with international legal obligations, including international human rights law, in this context, with respect in particular to freedom of expression and privacy.

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7. 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 open meeting.

III. Format of discussions

8. 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.

9. The Committee Chair would act as meeting Chairs and/or moderator.

10. The participants would be invited to focus on the above-mentioned aspects of Member States’ efforts to counter terrorist narratives. In order to ensure sufficient time, panellists would be requested to give 8-10-minute presentations. All participants would be required to submit their written remarks to CTED, and CTED would circulate an annotated agenda, meeting documentation, and other logistical information, which would also be posted on the Committee’s website.

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

IV. Panellists

12. Representatives of Member States; relevant international, regional and subregional organizations; and other experts would be invited to serve as panellists. The attached agenda includes a list of proposed participants.

V. Date and venue

13. The proposed open meeting would be held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, in the Economic and Social Council Chamber, on Wednesday, 23 March 2022, from 3.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.

VI. Outcomes

14. Consistent with Security Council 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 (UNOCT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),

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the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 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 violence and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recruitment to terrorist groups. Meeting panellists' written statements would be posted on the Committee's website.