

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

*Tuesday 28 January 2020, United Nations Headquarters, New York,
Conference Room 4*

Concept 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 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. The Security Council, in its 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 Security 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 GIFCT to continue to increase its engagement with Governments and technology companies globally. Both resolutions recognized the development of the CTED-led *Tech Against Terrorism* (“TaT”) public-private partnership and its efforts to foster collaboration with representatives of the technology industry, including smaller/start-up technology companies, civil society, academia, and Government to disrupt terrorists’ ability to use the Internet for terrorist purposes, while also ensuring respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

4. In connection with measures against incitement, it should be noted that 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 (UNGA) in 1948 (“the Universal Declaration”), also recalling 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. Objectives of open meeting

5. The objective of the proposed open meeting is to assist the Committee to encourage States to better align their efforts in the area of countering terrorist narratives with the Framework and the guidelines contained in Council resolution 2354 (2017). Specifically, participants will 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 for audiences vulnerable to terrorist narratives;
- iv. Identify and analyse key aspects of the exploitation of information and communications technologies (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 in, and knowledge of, Member States’ compliance with the relevant 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. Encourage continued 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 will be invited to attend the open meeting.

III. Format of discussions

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

8. The Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs will act as meeting Chairs and/or moderators.

9. The participants will be invited to focus on the above aspects of efforts to counter terrorist narratives. In order to ensure that there is sufficient time, panellists will be requested to give 8-10-minute presentations and submit their written remarks to CTED. CTED will circulate an annotated agenda, meeting documentation, and other logistical information, which will also be posted on the Committee's website.

10. The half-day meeting will include three 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 will be followed by interactive dialogue. Member States will 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 will be invited to serve as panellists. CTED will submit an updated list of proposed participants closer to the event.

V. Date and venue

12. The proposed open meeting will be held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 28 January 2020, in Conference Room 4, from 3.00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

VI. Outcomes

13. In accordance with Security Council resolution 2354 (2017) and the outcomes of the discussions held during the open meeting, CTED will continue to work with the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), 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 and violent extremism conducive to terrorism, and recruitment to terrorist groups. Panellists' written statements will be posted on the Committee's website. CTED also proposes to issue an Analytical Brief on this topic, following the open meeting.