

**Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
Building resilience of communities to prevent
radicalization to terrorism**

Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations Headquarters

Monday, 29 April 2024, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. EDT

Opening remarks of

**Mr. Weixiong Chen
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Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, dear colleagues,

The United Nations, through the efforts of the CTC and its Executive Directorate (CTED), has been at the forefront of addressing the ever-evolving nature of terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

I wish to highlight a few points.

First, addressing the global terrorist threat effectively requires a comprehensive, whole-of-society approach.

In this regard, building resilience within the local communities will enable fostering a sense of belonging, inclusivity, and empowerment among communities as well as building trust, understanding and cooperation across diverse societies in preventing the radicalization that fuels terrorist acts.

It will also enable equipping individuals with the tools and resources they need to resist the spread of violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

Second, women play a pivotal role in this space. They are among the pillars of change, well-situated to positively contribute to their communities, and challenge and disrupt terrorist influence.

Third, youth also play a crucial role in fostering community resilience against terrorism.

The Security Council, in its resolution 2250 (2015) stressed the important role of youth and increasing their representation in decision-making processes in such endeavours.

Youth engagement and empowerment are key to preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism, promoting tolerance and multiculturalism, and safeguarding communities.

Fourth, new technologies allow us to consider and explore contemporary and innovative opportunities to help communities build resilience against terrorism.

From enhancing cybersecurity, to fostering community cohesion online, and facilitating effective communication and public engagement, these technologies can be instrumental in our collective efforts to counter and mitigate the impacts of terrorism.

Fifth, cities are the heart of our communities. They are not only the targets of terrorist activities, but also the places where the fabric of society is woven together.

It is worth remembering that resilience also encompasses the ability – of communities and cities – to recover and rebuild in the aftermath of a terrorist act.

Through the collective efforts of city leaders, residents, and organizations, we can mitigate the impacts of terrorism and ensure the safety and security of our communities.

I am confident today's meeting will allow us to reflect on the challenges and lessons we have learned in this space. It will also allow us to shed light on good practices.

I look forward to hearing from our distinguished panellists, and to the interventions that will follow.

Thank you.