



Preventing Terrorist Use of the Internet

20 September 2017, 17.15 – 18.45, CR4, UN HQ

BACKGROUND

Terrorist use of the internet to incite, inspire and direct terrorist and violent extremist acts is one of the most pressing issues that the global community currently faces. Working with international partners, industry and law enforcement, we need to make the online space a hostile environment for terrorists to operate and prevent the dissemination of terrorist and violent extremist propaganda online. A fundamental shift in the scale and nature of our response is required to match the evolving and cross-border nature of terrorists' use of the internet. This requires a global response – governments, multilateral bodies, Social Media Companies, and civil society all have a role to play.

Building on existing initiatives and following the calls to action from the G7, EU, G20 and others, Facebook, Twitter, Microsoft and YouTube announced the formation of the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT). This is a significant milestone but there is still work to do if we are to make a tangible difference on the amount of available terrorist content online. An event at the UN General Assembly offers an opportunity for the international community to recognise this joint industry progress, put international weight behind the GIFCT as a global focal point that complements regional bodies including the EU Internet Forum, and set the direction and future action needed to tackle this issue.

This UNGA side event will be co-hosted by the UK, France and Italy, attended by senior representatives of the major Social Media Companies who make up the GIFCT as well as wider industry and media stakeholders. This will be the first time world leaders and a senior tech executive have addressed the UN on this issue. It will build on cooperation to date by giving the GIFCT a platform to demonstrate what they have done so far, provide an opportunity for member states to demonstrate their support for this important work and collectively to set the international agenda. In order to display the true international

collaboration required, our aim is to secure widespread and diverse country representation at this event and an invitation has been issued to all UN member states. Civil society and wider industry representatives have also been invited to observe.

The event will encourage governments and civil society groups to engage with the GIFCT, while those companies that make up the forum continue to develop solutions around preventing terrorist content being made available on their platforms as well as identifying and removing existing content. Alongside this, they will work with smaller platforms to share best practice and promote alternative narratives through civil society.

REGISTRATION – GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES

The UN Permanent Representations of the United Kingdom, France and Italy are delighted to invite government Heads of Delegation to attend this historic meeting.

Please note that this event is aimed at the most senior levels of government. Invitations are for your principal +2.

To register, please send an email to UNGA@cabinetoffice.gov.uk, and provide:

- The name and full title of your principal;
- The full names of your +2 attendees;
- Indications of interest in a speaking slot (more below)

We require your registration information no later than Friday 15 September.

If you have already replied to the previous save-the-date, our office will be in touch directly.

REGISTRATION – NON-GOVERNMENT ATTENDEES

The UN Permanent Representations of the United Kingdom, France and Italy are delighted to invite relevant non-governmental experts and researchers, NGOs, industry representatives and the media to this event.

This note has been sent directly to chosen invitees and are non-transferable.

To register, please send an email to ryan.wilson@fco.gov.uk and jennifer.blakeney@fco.gov.uk and provide your full name, nationality, DOB and occupation/job title.

We require your registration information no later than Friday 15 September. This is a ticketed UN event, and entry will be impossible for guests that do not register in advance.

You will receive information about entry to the UN and other logistics for the day once registered.

FORMAT & LOGISTICS

This event will be held in Conference Room 4 at UN Headquarters.

A speakers list is being arranged for the most senior representatives in attendance. Due to high demand, we will be prioritising seniority and direct engagement with the subject matter to decide speaking slots. Please engage with our team if your delegation has questions.

The current running order will see the co-hosts speak first, followed by a senior technology company representative. Invited guests will then speak in a pre-arranged order. There will not be an opportunity to intervene from the floor, outside of a pre-agreed slot.

If your government is not represented by a head of delegation, we must sadly indicate now that a speaking slot is unlikely. However, all delegations attending are welcome to make a written submission of up to 1,000 words, which the conference organisers will happily publish online alongside the formal event readout.

MEDIA QUERIES

This event will be live-streamed on UN TV. Only pre-registered journalists and UN accredited media may enter the room on the day. See contacts below for queries.

CONTACT

All queries can be sent to UNGA@cabinetoffice.gov.uk.

For direct information on specific issues, contact:

- Ryan.wilson@fco.gov.uk (speaking list and registrations)
Landline: +44-0207-008-7707 , Mob: +44078-8133-0085
- Jennifer.blakeney@fco.gov.uk (media registration and industry queries)
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