Open Briefing of the Counter-Terrorism Committee

To present the proceedings and outcomes of the Committee’s Special Meeting on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes (held on 28-29 October 2022, in India)

Concept Note

Friday, 2 December 2022, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EST)
Conference Room 1, United Nations Headquarters Building, New York

A. Introduction

1. The Counter-Terrorism Committee proposes to hold an open briefing to highlight the successful proceedings and outcomes of its recent Special Meeting on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, which was held in India on 28-29 October 2022. This briefing will be open to all Member States and relevant operational partners, including United Nations organizations, international and regional organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), private-sector entities, and members of the Global Research Network (GRN) of the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), as well as the media.

2. The open briefing will highlight the three significant areas focused on during the Special Meeting in which emerging technologies are experiencing rapid development, growing use by Member States for security and counter-terrorism purposes, and an increasing threat of use for terrorist purposes: (i) the Internet, social media, and related online spaces; (ii) new payment technologies and fundraising methods; and (iii) unmanned aerial systems (UAS). The open briefing will also give overarching considerations necessary in countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes to include human rights, the role of civil society, one-UN global programming, and honoring the victims of terrorism.

3. The open briefing will provide highlights and key takeaways from the discussions held during the recent Special Meeting with the aim of informing about:

   a) the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes;
   b) recent developments and the latest evidence-based research regarding the threats posed by terrorist use of new and emerging technologies;
   c) steps taken by Member States, the private sector, civil society, and other key partners to institute appropriate legal, policy, and operational measures to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, while respecting international law, including international human rights law, international humanitarian law and international refugee law;
   d) the ways in which Member States are deploying new and emerging technological developments to prevent and counter terrorism and to bring terrorists to justice;
e) ways in which States and other relevant actors can strengthen their engagement and cooperation in countering the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorists and their financiers, in compliance with applicable obligations under international law and while taking into account gender considerations relating to digitalization and technology.

4. The open briefing will also feature a presentation of the “Delhi Declaration” outcome document¹, which the Counter-Terrorism Committee formally adopted at the Special Meeting on 29 October 2022. The Delhi Declaration recognizes a number of key concerns and tenets, and provides guidance to Member States and stakeholders in countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. It also sets forth areas of future work for the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate, to include the development of recommendations, non-binding guiding principles, and a ‘gap analysis’ on Member States’ capacities to counter the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

B. Format of the Open Briefing

5. It is proposed that the open briefing take place on Friday, 2 December 2022 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (EST), in Conference Room 1 of the United Nations Headquarters building as an in-person event, with virtual participation by speakers, as necessary, in accordance with the prevailing arrangements for United Nations conferences.

6. The open briefing is proposed to begin with a minute’s silence in memory and honour of the victims of terrorism, their families, and survivors of terrorism. This would be followed by statements from the Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the Acting Executive Director and staff members of CTED, as well as other speakers.

7. The open briefing would be conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations (pursuant to the rules for interpretation and availability at the time of the open briefing).

C. Participants

8. The open briefing would be open to the wider United Nations membership and other relevant stakeholders (including partner United Nations counter-terrorism bodies; representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations; members of the Global Research Network; Civil Society Organizations; private-sector entities, and the media. Delegates from United Nations Member States and other representatives planning to attend the open briefing will be requested to register using this link.

9. Representatives from Member States, United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations attending the open briefing in person may register their interest to make a (maximum) 3-minute statement or ask questions during the time allocated on the agenda for interventions.

¹ The “Delhi Declaration” outcome document from the 28-29 October 2022 Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes is available online on the Committee's website in Arabic, English, Chinese, French, Russian, and Spanish.
D. Communication

9. The open briefing will be broadcast live and/or recorded in order that participants may observe the proceedings online.

10. Information about the open briefing, as well as documents relating the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and the Delhi Declaration will be available on the Committee’s website and will be circulated on social media by CTED.

E. Draft Agenda

Friday, 2 December 2022 – Conference Room 1, UNHQ, New York

11.00 – 11.20 Opening and Primary Remarks

- Minute of silence to commemorate the victims of terrorism
- Opening of the Briefing and Remarks – H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee
- United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) – Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General for Counter-Terrorism (or his representative) [TBC]
- Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) – Mr. Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director

11.20 – 11.40 Overview of discussions and outcomes from the Special Meeting

- Presentation on the proceedings and discussions held during the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes – CTED Representative(s)
- Presentation of the “Delhi Declaration” outcome document of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and its principles – Mr. David Scharia, Chief of Branch, CTED

11.40 – 12.10 Interventions by Guest Speakers from the Special Meeting

- Speaker(s) from the thematic briefing on “countering terrorist exploitation of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)” [TBC]
• Speaker(s) from the thematic briefing on “countering terrorism financing – threats and opportunities related to new payment technologies and fundraising methods” [TBC]
• Speaker(s) from the thematic briefing on “threats posed by terrorist use of unmanned aerial systems (UAS)” [TBC]
• Speaker(s) from the panel on “overarching considerations for countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes [TBC]

12.10 – 12.55  Interventions

• CTC Members
• From Member States, United Nations counter-terrorism bodies, and representatives of international, regional and subregional organizations (as registered and attending in person)

12.55 – 13.00  Closing

• Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee – H.E. Mrs. Ruchira Kamboj, Permanent Representative of the Government of India to the United Nations