

**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

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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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