

**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE PROMOTION AND
PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS
WHILE COUNTERING TERRORISM
PROFESSOR FIONNUALA NI AOLAIN
COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE REMARKS**

INTRODUCTION

1. Excellencies, distinguished colleagues and guests, I am grateful for the opportunity to be here in Delhi and to address the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council in my role as the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.
2. It is very significant for my Mandate to be invited to address the Counter-Terrorism Committee as it meets in India and I appreciate the value that the CTC - with India as Chair - places on the inclusion of independent expert human rights advice. As Chair of the CTC, India has also shown important leadership in enabling the representatives from civil society organisations to meaningfully participate in this meeting of the Committee.
3. The inclusion of civil society in counter-terrorism legal and policy development has been a focus of the work of my Mandate, and here I acknowledge significant developments including the participative GCTS review process and the High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights in Malaga, Spain in May of this year. Engaging civil society is *indispensable* to understanding the impact of terrorism on communities and individuals. Civil Society is *indispensable* to identifying and understanding new and emerging threats. *And it is essential* for understanding the impact positive and negative of the international society in the room active participants in our legal, policy and programmatic work our capacity to prevent, regulate, and find solutions to end the scourge of terrorism will be undermined and weaker.

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their purposes. The case of unmanned aerial systems provides a vivid example. Once the preserve of a small number of militaries, this technology has been shared worldwide between States, private companies, and civilian contractors. But, as States have learned, once sophisticated technology is promulgated widely, there is no way to control its spread to non-State and terrorist actors. As the UN Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions noted in her 2020 Report,⁴ *-State actors have reportedly obtained armed and unarmed drone systems, including ISIL* other sophisticated new technologies originally developed and promulgated to fight terrorism - such as spyware, biometric analysis tools, and artificial intelligence - will follow the same path from State hands to non-State and terrorist hands in due course.

CONCLUSION

11. Therefore Excellencies, inclusive multilateral regulation of the development, use, Storage and transfer of new technologies is essential. Such regulation must be human rights compliant not only because with such inherently high-risk technologies, protecting the dignity of the human person is indispensable, but also because our failure to regulate has had profound consequences for the reproduction of the conditions that produce violence itself.