2023 Counter-Terrorism Week
SIDE EVENTS

19–23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)

INTERPOL

Funded by
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United Nations Security Council
Counter-Terrorism Committee
Executive Directorate (CTED)

Building More Effective and Resilient Law Enforcement Responses to New Technologies in Countering Terrorism: The CT TECH initiative

23 June 2023

13:15-14:30 ET

UNHQs Conference Room 11/WebEx Platform (Hybrid)

Concept Note

Introduction

This side event is organized on the margins of the Third United Nations Counter-Terrorism Week, *"Addressing Terrorism through Reinvigorated Multilateralism and Institutional Cooperation"*, by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), of the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), the European Union (EU), and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), in collaboration with Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). The side event is organized under Pillar II of the United Nations Global Counter Terrorism Strategy (UN GCTS) – Preventing and Combating Terrorism.

From 2022, UNOCT/UNCCT and INTERPOL have jointly carried out the "CT TECH" initiative, implemented under UNOCT/UNCCT Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies (the Programme) and funded by the European Union. CT TECH

initiative aims to strengthen the capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities in selected partner countries to counter the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, as well as support the leveraging of new and emerging technologies in the fight against terrorism.

As part of the initiative, the Programme, in collaboration with recognized experts from academia, civil society, Member States, and Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, developed six knowledge products to help Member States and regional organizations in strengthening their law enforcement and criminal justice capacities to counter exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and to support the leveraging of new and emerging technologies in the fight against terrorism, as part of this effort.

Objectives

The side event focuses on more effective and resilient Member States' institutions in the evolving global terrorism landscape, while assessing current and emerging trends. With that in mind, the side event serves to introduce to Member States and wider public the new knowledge products and raise awareness of new practices, in:

- Conducting terrorist threat assessments on the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes

- Designing national counter-terrorism policy responses to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes

- Establishing law enforcement cooperation with technology companies in countering terrorism

- Law enforcement capabilities framework for new technologies in countering terrorism

- Human-rights based approaches to counter the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes; and

- Guide for first responders on the collection of digital devices in the battlefield

During the side-event, representatives from the EU, UNOCT/UNCCT, and INTERPOL will provide insights into all six products while experts who have contributed to drafting these products will discuss some of the best practices to achieve greater complementarity between prevention and security responses.

Background

Advances in information and communication technologies (ICT) and their availability have made it attractive for terrorist and violent extremist groups to exploit the Internet and social media for their means, including incitement, radicalization, recruitment, training, planning, collection of information, communication, propaganda, and financing. Terrorists also use encrypted communications and the dark web to share terrorist content, expertise, as well as to coordinate and facilitate attacks and procure weapons and counterfeit documents. There is concern that once advances in artificial intelligence, machine learning and self-driving cars become widely available, these technologies could also be misused by terrorists to expand the range and lethality of their attacks.

United Nations Member States attach great importance to addressing the impact of new technologies in countering terrorism, as expressed in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. The Security Council has underscored the importance of strong coordination and cooperation between CTED and UNOCT/UNCCT as they work within their respective mandates and in their distinct roles to ensure effective United Nations engagement with Member States to strengthen implementation of the Global Counter-terrorism Strategy in a balanced manner.

During the seventh review of the of the **United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/75/291**), Member States requested "*the Office of Counter-Terrorism and other* relevant Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities to jointly support innovative measures and approaches to build capacity of Member States, upon their request, for the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including the human rights aspects, in preventing and countering terrorism".

Law enforcement agencies play a particularly important role in preventing and countering terrorism. Proper investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorist and extremist offences is one of the most important capacities that Member States need to achieve to eradicate terrorism and promote peaceful and inclusive societies.

The overall objective of CT TECH initiative is to strengthen capacities of law enforcement and criminal justice authorities to counter exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and to support the leveraging of new and emerging technologies in the fight against terrorism as part of this effort.

To address knowledge gaps in countering terrorist use of new technologies, recognized experts from academia, civil society, Member States, and Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group of the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact collaborated to develop six knowledge products to help Member States, international and regional organizations, and tech industry to:

- Design national counter-terrorism policy responses to address challenges and opportunities of new technologies in countering terrorism in full respect of human rights and rule of law.

- Provide practical tools and guidance for law enforcement on countering the exploitation of new technologies for terrorist purposes and use of new technologies to prevent and counter terrorism in full respect of human rights and rule of law.

Gender and Human Rights Dimension

Terrorism has devastating consequences for the enjoyment of the rights to life, liberty, and physical integrity of victims. In addition to these individual costs, terrorism can destabilize governments, undermine civil society, jeopardize peace and security, and threaten social and economic development. The use of new technologies to counter terrorist activities presents new human rights challenges. States have an obligation to uphold human rights by taking positive measures to protect their nationals and others against the threat of terrorist attacks and bring the perpetrators of such acts to justice. Such counter-terrorism measures, including actions to prevent and prosecute those responsible for terrorist acts, must themselves be in line with international human rights standards and the rule of law.

Human rights compliance and gender mainstreaming was reinforced throughout all knowledge products.

Agenda

Duration 75 min	23.06.2023
5 mins	**Welcome,** by • Mr Raffi Gregorian, Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)

15 mins	**Opening remarks,** by • Mr. Greg Hinds, Counter-Terrorism Director, INTERPOL • Ms. Maria Rosa Sabbatelli, Head of Unit, Global and Transregional Threats and Challenges, European Commission, Foreign Policy Instruments Service (virtual) • Mr. David Scharia, Chief of Counter-Terrorism Branch, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)
15 mins	**Knowledge-Based Approaches to Counter Terrorist Use of New Technologies: From Policy to Operational Choices,** by • Mr. Daniel Lowe, Programme Management Officer, Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit, UNOCT/UNCCT
8 min	**Private Sector Cooperation with Law Enforcement in Countering Terrorism,** by • Ms. Natasha Lie, Senior Investigator, CyberCrime Investigation Group: Imminent Threats, Google, LLC
8 min	**Upholding Human Rights in the Age of New Technologies**, by • Ms. Krisztina Huszti-Orban, Human Rights Officer, Human Rights and Gender Section, UNOCT
15 min	**Securing Tomorrow: Harnessing New Technologies and Strengthening Global Cooperation in Counter-Terrorism,** led by Ms. Lauren Daly, Chair of Emerging Threats and Critical Infrastructure Protection Working Group (ETCIP), INTERPOL Panel: • Ms. Jennifer Bramlette, Coordinator for Information and Communications Technologies, CTED • Ms. Arianna Lepore, Coordinator, Global Initiative on Electronic Evidence, Terrorism Prevention Branch, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) • Ms. Adriana Edmeades Jones, Legal Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism and Human Rights • Mr. Michael Maffei, Senior Security Counsel, Google, LLC
3 mins	**Wrap-up and Way Forward,** by

	• Mr. Ulrik Ahnfeldt-Mollerup, Chief of the Countering Terrorism Section, UNOCT/UNCCT
End of Side Event	

Logistics

The side-event will take place in a hybrid format, in UN Secretariat Conference Room 11 and via Cisco WebEx. The side event will be recorded and uploaded to UN WebTV.

Access details for joining the meeting will be provided later. The meeting will be conducted in English.

For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact Ms. Akvile Giniotiene, Head of Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit, UNOCT/UNCCT, akvile.giniotiene@un.org, Mr. Endrik Raun, Associate Expert in Cybersecurity and New Technologies Unit, UNOCT/UNCCT, endrik.raun@un.org, and Ms. Gaki Lhaden, Programme Management Assistant, UNOCT/UNCCT, gaki.lhaden@un.org.

RSVP link: **bit.ly/CT-TECH-23Jun23**