

Excellencies,
Ladies and G

We have seen how terrorist organizations create their own applications hosting their content that circumvents the moderation systems the “everyday” platforms have.

They continue to disseminate propaganda and educate their followers on operational security and much more. Merely acknowledging this is not enough. We must have responses that counter these threats effectively.

During one of our events, we learned how one country’s law enforcement agency was able to prevent a potentially deadly explosion in a school, thanks to the very quick reaction and cooperation between law enforcement and the ICT company that hosted the information.

To be effective, governments and security agencies around the world have learned that they need to ground their responses in international human rights law, or they risk increasing the number of young men and women who seek to join terrorist affiliated groups. They have also begun to recognize something terrorists mastered long ago, and that is how to manipulate gender issues to gain recruits and spread their hateful ideologies. That is why understanding how gender impacts action and response and how to integrate a gendered response are also increasingly relevant to governments and their security services.

The General Assembly, in its eighth review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in June 2023, requested UNOCT to support innovative measures and approaches to build the capacity of Member States for the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide in preventing and countering terrorism.

Last year, we kicked off the CT TECH initiative to strengthen Member States’ law enforcement capacities to counter the exploitation of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and support the leveraging of these technologies in the fight against terrorism.

Four months ago, during the UN’s Third Counter-Terrorism Week, we launched seven new knowledge products to support the development of policy and operational responses. These knowledge products explore opportunities offered by new technologies, with a strong focus on upholding human rights, the rule of law, and incorporating gender aspects.

Now it is time to promote these good practices through regional workshops such as the one we are having today for South and Southeast Asia. During our previous workshops in Nairobi, Tashkent, and Sarajevo, we have witnessed how eager Member States are to share their own good practices to ensure security at home and in their region. More importantly, they have been very interested in how their regional partners deal with various aspects of countering terrorism. We truly hope that this will continue today and tomorrow.

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We hope that these knowledge products and the