



Statement by Mr. Vladimir Voronkov, Under-Secretary-General,
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism [pre-recorded]

Side Event: "Building knowledge on counter-terrorism in the age of artificial intelligence: threats, opportunities and safeguarding human rights"

29 June 2021, 1.30 p.m.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all to this very important discussion on counter-terrorism in the age of artificial intelligence and the launch of two reports, developed jointly by the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

Over the past decade, we have seen the rapid adoption of artificial intelligence solutions in both the public and private sectors.

The United Nations Secretary-General's 2019 Strategy on New Technologies acknowledges both great promise and risks that these new technologies bring.

Terrorists have been early adopters of emerging technologies, which tend to be under-regulated and under-governed.

Lack of adequate policies, regulations and governance hinder Member States' abilities to effectively use predictive artificial intelligence capabilities in a manner that also safeguards human rights, such as the right to privacy and the right of freedom of opinion.

However, if harnessed responsibly, predictive artificial intelligence to counter terrorism might minimize the need for more invasive monitoring of citizens that lead to human rights concerns. In

This Programme is launching today two reports developed jointly with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute.

Both reports explore the risk-benefit duality of artificial intelligence in the counter-terrorism context, in order to enable governments, industry, academia and the broader global community to think proactively