The online spread of conspiracy theories and hate speech is increasingly sophisticated and accelerated by algorithms and online echo chambers.

We have seen terrorists and violent extremists use social media, messaging and online gaming platforms to influence and recruit young people and other vulnerable audiences.

And it is having offline consequences. This includes social polarization, erosion of trust in government, violence against children, hate crimes and terrorism, across the ideological spectrum.

The COVID-   led a growing threat from xenophobic, racist and other forms of intolerant movements.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues,

Terrorism, violent extremism and hate speech are distinct but closely linked challenges, and we need strong policy and programmatic synergies in efforts to prevent these phenomena.

To the extent there is an overlap between hate speech and terrorist narratives, there is potential to identify common norms, good practices and tools for responses that comply with human rights and the rule of law.

Curbing the online spread of hate speech and terrorist content, while upholding freedom of expression, was a major focus during the seventh review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that the General Assembly concluded last June.

The outcome resolution recalls the prohibition of incitement to hatred, hostility

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and acknowledges the Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech of United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres.

My Office will continue to invest in innovative, evidence-based practices to counter terrorist narratives through our Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism.