

**Third Quarterly Briefing of the  
United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism to Member States**

*Monday, 19 December 2022, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.*

**Remarks of**

**Mr. Weixiong Chen**

**Acting Executive Director**

**Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

*Excellencies, distinguished delegates,*

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) continues to actively monitor the evolving terrorism landscape and emerging trends and work with Member States in addressing those threats and challenges.

On 28 and 29 October 2022, the Counter-Terrorism Committee, with the support of CTED, convened a special meeting in India on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes and adopted the Delhi Declaration.

The Declaration reaffirms the Committee's unified commitment to combatting the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, with emphasis on the engagement with multiple stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, and civil society organizations, with a view to ensuring human rights-compliant approaches, and integrating gender as a cross-cutting issue into Member States' counter-terrorism strategies and activities.

The preparation and the discussions throughout the process revealed the following three key terrorist trends and challenges.

***First***, the exploitation of information and communication technologies, including the Internet, social media platforms, and emerging online spaces, is certain to evolve and grow.

Innovative ways to disseminate and weaponize terrorist propaganda, together with sophisticated techniques aimed at circumventing content moderation, will continue to present challenges to crafting a tailored and effective counter-terrorist response.

***Second***, terrorists are opportunistic and adaptive, and will continue to take advantage of the rapid evolution of financial services made possible by the emerging technologies.

They continue to find innovative methods to raise funds for terrorist purposes, including the misuse of social media services as well as crowdfunding platforms, with an uptick in the misuse of mobile payment systems, virtual assets, and privacy coins, as well as online exchanges and wallets.

***Third***, unmanned aerial systems (UAS), including drones, which terrorists have used for reconnaissance, criminal purposes, and other illicit activities, are now being “weaponized”.

The increase in their range and precision poses a further serious threat to critical infrastructure, civil aviation, and society in general.

We have also identified the following areas where gaps and capacity needs exist in responding to emerging threats and challenges.

***First***, the development of enhanced technological capabilities to identify and track terrorist activity across multiple platforms and to increase the accuracy of terrorist content removal efforts in a human rights-compliant manner.

***Second***, expanding the use of digital and social media literacy campaigns, as well as the development of tailored counter-terrorist narratives across multiple platforms.

***Third***, understanding the exact nature of the threat posed by terrorist use of new payment and fundraising methods, with a view to developing risk-based, outcome-based, and human-rights-law compliant responses.

***Fourth***, enhancing technical and analytical capacity to follow money trails more effectively, as well as the development of appropriate safeguards for new solutions to counter the financing of terrorism.

***Fifth***, conducting dedicated risk assessments and gap analysis with a view to developing effective counter-measures to the use of UAS for terrorist purposes, as well as implementing tailored programmes to educate the public, with improved regulations on framing acquisition, ownership and geographical zones where UAS flights are permitted.

In this context, CTED remains committed to fulfilling its mandate in monitoring, promoting and facilitating Member States' implementation efforts, including that in addressing the new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

Our assessments and recommendations will continue to be made available to the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, Global Compact entities, donor States and other implementing partners so that they can be informed in the design of technical assistance and capacity building efforts, as called upon by relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

***Thank you.***