Japan

Statement by H.E. Ambassador OSUGA Takeshi,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations,
at the UNOCT-INTERPOL Launch Event
on the Second Edition of the Handbook on "Using the Internet and Social
Media for Counter-Terrorism Investigations"
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Let me start by thanking the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) for organizing this important event together with INTERPOL.

It is my great pleasure to be here with USG Mr. Voronkov and Mr. Humlegård of INTERPOL to launch the second edition of the handbook on "using the internet and social media for counter-terrorism investigations." I would like to express my gratitude to the teams of both organizations for updating the handbook.

The first edition, launched in 2019, which we also supported, had about 50 pages, but now, in just 2 years, we have the second edition with more than 100 pages. These simple facts demonstrate the rapid evolution of digital technology and ICT, creating both benefits and risks to our world.

Indeed, keeping up with the technological progress is a major challenge for us all. At the G20 Summit held in Osaka in 2019, the concept of "Data Free Flow with Trust (DFFT)" was launched to enable cross-border free flow of data while addressing concerns over privacy, data protection, security and intellectual property rights. The importance of DFFT was again acknowledged in the G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration last month.

At the UN, improvement of digital cooperation is one of the 12 commitments of our Leaders in the Declaration on the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the UN. The SG's "Our Common Agenda" report proposes a multi-stakeholder digital technology track to prepare Global Digital Compact to be agreed in two years.

In the area of counter-terrorism, the misuse of the internet and other ICTs by terrorists is of growing concern. The rise of terrorist content and narratives for incitement and recruitment is particularly alarming. Japan underlined the need to address the growing threat in cyberspace through multi-stakeholder approaches during this year's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review. We are glad to see this duly reflected in the resolution.

Now we have to follow up. We need to stay ahead of malicious actors in the use of technology. One useful approach is to apply open-source intelligence in detecting online terrorist activities. We must strengthen the capacities of law enforcement institutions for more effective online investigations. At the same time, we need to ensure that those in charge are fully aware of the

implications of powerful technologies on human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law. They must act responsibly with due caution.

Given the rapidly-evolving and highly technical nature of ICTs, it is not an easy task to comprehend new threats, acquire technical expertise and be well informed about legal and ethical safeguards. Such information should be made easily accessible and digestible. This is why Japan welcomes this handbook as a comprehensive guide for practitioners worldwide to confidently navigate the field of online investigation.

Japan also supports training and awareness-raising activities for law enforcement officials in South and Southeast Asia through its contribution to the UNOCT's Global Counter-Terrorism Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to the UNOCT and INTERPOL in producing this handbook. It is our sincere hope that this latest edition will be of practical use for many Member States and other stakeholders and will contribute to mitigating terrorist threats online.

Thank you.