



# UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM

**Remarks by Mr. Raffi Gregorian  
Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and Director, United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism**

**Side event on Preventing and Countering the Use of New and Emerging Technologies for Terrorist Purposes: Way Forward for a Holistic Multilateral Response**

**22 June 2023, 1.15 p.m.**

**ECOSOC Chamber**

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honour to join today Her Excellency Ruchira Kamboj, the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, His Excellency Dr. Mohamed al Kuwaiti, Head of the Cybersecurity Council of the United Arab Emirates and Mr. David Scharia of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate at this side-event dedicated to preventing and countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, and discussing the way forward for a holistic multilateral response.

Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this era of rapid technological advancements, we find ourselves confronted with the challenges and opportunities that new technologies offer. Yes, they have emerged as powerful tools in the fight against terrorism, enabling us to enhance our capabilities, anticipate threats and respond swiftly and effectively. But at the same time, they have made formulating our counter-terrorism responses more complex.

They have also emerged as powerful tools for terrorists and violent extremists, who utilize information and communication technologies to commit terrorist acts and to facilitate a wide range of terrorist activities. And in doing so, they are unconstrained by morals, ethics and violating laws.

Artificial intelligence is another emerging field open for exploitation by malicious actors, such as terrorists. As Secretary-General Guterres recently said in a policy brief in preparation for the Summit of the Future, "Alarm bells over the latest form of artificial

intelligence – generative AI – are deafening. And they are loudest from the developers who designed it”.

Developments in the field of new and emerging technologies in the context of counter-terrorism has been on the agenda of the General Assembly since the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006. Since then, Member States have made important progress in elaborating a common strategic and operational approach to preventing and countering the use of new technologies for terrorist purposes.

The General Assembly through the GCTS 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, the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

Excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen,

For its part, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, in collaboration with CTED and other United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact entities, has been supporting Member States in formulating innovative, human-rights compliant counter-terrorism approaches to the issues covered by the Delhi Declaration.

The Global Cybersecurity and New Technologies Programme and its EU-funded CT TECH initiative with INTERPOL provides capacity building assistance to Member States on developing policy and operational approaches to new technologies and cybersecurity, in the context of counter-terrorism.

The Global Programme on Countering the Financing of Terrorism is supporting Member States in countering the use of virtual assets and cryptocurrencies to finance terrorism, including by facilitating and building public-private partnerships.

The Global Programme on Autonomous and Remotely Operated Systems is supporting Member States by raising awareness on the risks of terrorist groups using drones, and by providing drone-operator and drone-investigator training to law enforcement.

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism is looking forward to continuing working closely with you all in addressing challenges and opportunities of new technologies in the context of counter-terrorism.

Thank you.