

2026 Counter-Terrorism Week

SIDE EVENTS

1 July 2026 – 10.00-11.30

Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK



Permanent Mission of Japan
to the United Nations



UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF COUNTER-TERRORISM
UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT)



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United Nations
Interregional Crime and Justice
Research Institute

AI and the Future of Counter-Terrorism: Reshaping Institutions and Operational Realities

Concept Note

Background

Artificial intelligence (AI) is increasingly an operational reality in the field of counter-terrorism, reshaping both the threat landscape and the operational practice of counter-terrorism. On the one hand, Member States are leveraging AI to enhance the ability of law enforcement and security services to process large volumes of data, identify patterns, and support earlier interventions. On the other hand, terrorist actors are increasingly exploiting widely available technologies, including generative AI, primarily for propaganda, recruitment, and facilitation.

However, technological innovation is advancing at a pace that outstrips the ability of institutions, governance frameworks, and operational systems to adapt. This has created a persistent regulatory and operational lag, whereby rapidly evolving technologies are diffused faster than they can be effectively governed, understood, or operationalized in counter-terrorism practice. As a result, many Member States continue to operate in a reactive posture, struggling to translate technological potential into effective and scalable operational capability, while gaps in governance and implementation are increasingly exploited by terrorist actors. This challenge is further compounded by the accessibility and rapid global diffusion of

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these technologies, which enable their misuse across jurisdictions and complicate efforts to regulate or contain them.

While these developments reflect growing recognition of both the opportunities and risks, the challenge increasingly lies in translating this awareness into practical, scalable, and context-specific implementation. Against this backdrop, in December 2025, the Permanent Missions of India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in partnership with the United Nations (UN) Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT), convened a high-level meeting entitled “Building Operational Capacities for the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Counter-Terrorism” at UN Headquarters in New York. This continued the momentum from two events held during the UN Counter-Terrorism Week in June 2023: one organized by India and the UAE on new and emerging technologies, and one on generative AI by Japan, Australia and the European Union.

This event built on several key developments within the United Nations and beyond, which have sought to respond to these evolving challenges, reflecting a growing recognition of both the opportunities and risks associated with the use of new and emerging technologies in counter-terrorism. In its eighth review (A/RES/77/298) of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly called for the UN system to support innovative measures and approaches to build the capacity of Member States, upon their request, for the challenges and opportunities that new technologies provide, including human rights aspects, in preventing and countering terrorism. Similarly, within the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, the Counter-Terrorism Committee of the UN Security Council equally recognized that “innovations in technology may offer significant counter-terrorism opportunities”.

In parallel, the General Assembly has advanced a broader global agenda on AI, including through its resolution “Seizing the opportunities of safe, secure, and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development” (A/78/265) and resolution A/78/311 on enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building for AI. These efforts are further reinforced by the Pact for the Future and the Global Digital Compact, which emphasize the importance of responsible, inclusive, and human rights-compliant approaches to the development and use of emerging technologies in areas like law enforcement and counter-terrorism, and promoting international cooperation to prevent misuse and ensure equitable access.

These developments align with existing counter-terrorism frameworks, including the Delhi Declaration and the Abu Dhabi Guiding Principles on the Use of Advanced Technology in Counter-Terrorism, which underscore the importance of international cooperation, public-private partnerships, and coordinated, forward-looking approaches to addressing the dual-use nature of emerging technologies.

In this context, UNICRI through its Centre for AI and Robotics and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) in UNOCT, through its Global Programme on Cybersecurity and New Technologies, have worked to advance knowledge and understanding of the potential opportunities and challenges of emerging technologies in law enforcement and counter-terrorism. In particular, through the AI-POL and

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CT TECH+ initiatives, both independently funded by the European Union and implemented in partnership with INTERPOL, UNICRI and UNOCT/UNCCT, have sought to build the capacity of law enforcement and counter-terrorism agencies to leverage the responsible use of AI in strengthening public safety and global security.

Objectives

- To examine how AI continues to reshape counter-terrorism institutions, decision-making, and operational realities at the national and international levels, including with regard to its responsible use.
- To identify strategic priorities for Member States in adapting counter-terrorism policies and cooperation frameworks to the opportunities and risks posed by AI. This includes addressing gaps in institutional readiness, facilitating knowledge-sharing on capacity-building opportunities and inclusive engagement with relevant stakeholders, such as civil society and academia.
- To share successes and lessons learned from the CT TECH+ and AI-POL initiatives.

Outcomes

- A shared high-level understanding among participating Member States and partners of the strategic implications of AI for counter-terrorism institutions and operations, including considerations related to its responsible use.
- A basis for continued engagement with UNOCT, UNICRI, and other relevant partners under a broader strategic framework, including pathways to address institutional gaps and advance implementation through flexible and scalable approaches that complement existing frameworks.

Agenda

Duration	1 July 2026
10.00 – 10.25	Opening Remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>H.E. Mr. Harish Parvathaneni, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the India</i> - <i>H.E. Mr. Minami Hiroyuki, Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime</i> - <i>H.E. Mr. Maqsoud Kruse, Envoy of the Minister of Foreign Affairs for Countering Extremism and Terrorism, United Arab Emirates</i> - <i>Ms. Anna Strzaska, European External Action Service Special Envoy for Counter-Terrorism</i>
10.25 – 10.35	Keeping Pace with Innovation: The State of AI in Counter-Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti, Head of the United Arab Emirates Cyber Security Council</i>
10.35 – 10.45	From Innovation to Application in Counter-Terrorism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>H.E. Mr. Mikanagi Tomohiro, Ambassador-at-Large for Cooperation on International Law, Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations</i>

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10.45 – 11.00	UN System Support to Member States: The AI-POL and CT TECH+ Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Akvile Giniotiene, Head, Cyber and New Technologies Unit, UNOCT/UNCCT</i> - <i>Odhran McCarthy, Liaison Officer and Programme Officer, UNICRI</i>
11.00 – 11.15	UN System Support to Member States: Participating Member State Perspectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Major General Adamu Garba Laka, National Coordinator, National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC), Office of the National Security Advisor, Nigeria</i> - <i>Amit Vasava, Police Superintendent, Central Bureau of Investigations, India</i>
11.15 – 11.20	Future Directions in Advancing Responsible Counter-Terrorism Innovation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Speaker TBC</i>
11.20 – 11.30	Q&A, Member State Comments and Closing
Close of Meeting	

Logistics

The event will take place in person. Prior registration is requested for all participants. Registration can be completed here or by scanning the QR Code provided.



For further information regarding this event, please contact:

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