



2023 Counter-Terrorism Week SIDE EVENTS

19–23 JUNE 2023

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK



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



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTORATE



The Battle of the Bytes: Confronting the Dark Side of Generative AI and the Prospect of its Malicious Use for Terrorist Purposes

22 June 08.00 – 09.30 Eastern Time (New York) on Microsoft Teams

Background and Context

Artificial intelligence (AI) has become an increasingly powerful tool in various fields, from healthcare to finance, transportation, and entertainment. One of the most promising applications of AI is in the field of generative AI, which refers to AI systems that can create new and original content, such as images, text, and audio, that are indistinguishable from content created by humans. Generative AI has exploded in popularity and mainstream awareness in the last half a year, with OpenAI's ChatGPT reaching 100 million monthly active users in January 2023, just two months after launch – breaking records and making it the fastest-growing consumer application in history. While generative AI has numerous positive applications, including in creative industries such as music and art, it also presents potential for malicious use.

New and emerging technologies – particularly information and communications technologies, including the Internet, social media platforms, and related online spaces – have become a favoured tool for terrorists such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL)/Da'esh, Al-Qaida, their affiliated groups, other terrorist organizations, and their supporters to engage in terrorism. During the Second Counter-Terrorism Week in 2020, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) launched a joint publication, [Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious Use of AI for Terrorist Purposes](#), that highlighted some of the potential malicious uses and abuses of AI by terrorists, including generative AI. At that time, the research was forward-looking in terms of threats. Recent technological advancements in AI have, however, cast the scenarios described in the report in a new light and the threat of the malicious use of AI has increase substantially with the related technical and financial barriers to entry being lowered. Tellingly, since Chat GPT was launched in November 2022, there was a noticeable spike in the number of mentions of ChatGPT on the dark web, which can be understood as demonstrating a growth in discussions around generative AI on the dark web.

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The emergence of generative AI provides terrorist groups and individuals with new means to achieve their goals. By creating convincing fake content, terrorists could spread false information, manipulate public opinion, and sow discord in society. For example, terrorists could create deepfake videos of political leaders to spread false information or incite violence or use generative AI to create sophisticated misinformation campaigns on social media. There are also concerns surrounding the ability of generative AI's code generation capabilities that could help less-skilled threat actors devise and launch cyberattacks.

Consequently there is a pressing need to ensure that a heightened degree of attention is paid to what is now, undoubtedly, a present-day threat, in order to ensure that national authorities, and private entities alike, fully grasp the nature of the threats flowing from these advancements and to ensure that appropriate strategies can be implemented to reduce and counter the risks associated with the use of generative AI for terrorist purposes.

The use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes is a topic of growing importance for the international community, particularly following the Special Meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on this topic in Mumbai and New Delhi, India, in October 2022, the primary output of which was the "Delhi Declaration", that recognizes a number of key concerns and tenets unanimously agreed by the Committee and provides guidance to Member States and stakeholders in countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes

About the Side-Event

This Side-Event is organized by UNOCT and UNICRI in cooperation with CTED and with the support of the Permanent Missions of Australia and Japan and will take place on 22 June from 08.00 to 09.30 Eastern Time (New York).

Objectives

The desired outcome of the side-event is to highlight the significant technological advancements that have taken place since the 2020 launch of the UNOCT and UNICRI publication Algorithms and Terrorism, raise awareness of what the malicious use of generative AI may look like, and to support and inform Member States about this emerging threat as they engage in international processes, such the implementation of the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes, adopted in October 2022 by the Counter-Terrorism Committee during its Special Meeting held in Delhi, India.

Logistics

Due to the nature of the event, the meeting will take place exclusively in virtual format on Microsoft Teams. The meeting will be conducted in English and will be recorded.

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For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact Ms. Balques Al Radwan, UNCCT Programme Management Officer, Balques.alradwan@un.org and Mr. Odhran McCarthy, UNICRI New York Liaison Officer and Programme Officer, odhran.mccarthy@un.org.

Agenda

- 08.00** **Welcome**, by *Noor Najjar, Chief Neural Architect, QuantumMind Solutions*
- 08.05** **Opening remarks**
- *Permanent Mission of Japan, H.E. Mrs. Mitsuko Shino, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Deputy Permanent Representative*
 - *Permanent Mission of Australia, Phillipa Adams, Police Advisor*
 - *Leif Villadsen, Senior Programme Officer and Deputy Director, UNICRI*
 - *Akvile Giniotiene Head, Cyber and New Technologies Unit, UNCCT/UNOCT*
 - *Jennifer Bramlette, Legal Officer and ICT Coordinator, CTED*
- 08.25** **Algorithms and terrorism – The malicious use of AI for terrorist purposes** by *Odhran McCarthy, Programme Management Officer and New York Liaison Officer, UNICRI and Balques Al Radwan, Programme Management Officer, Cybersecurity & New Technologies, UNOCT*
- 08.35** **Understanding Generative AI, its use and creative potential** by *Husan Chahal, Geopolitics and AI Policy Researcher, OpenAI¹*
- 08.55** **Law enforcement perspectives on malicious use of generative AI**, by *Janis Dalin, LSC, Co-Director of the AILECS Lab, Covert and Technical Operations, Australian Federal Police*
- 09.15** **Industry insights on trends and developments in malicious use of generative AI**, by *Vincenzo Ciancaglini, Senior Threat Researcher, Trend Micro*
- 09.20** **Video generation with AI Avatars**, by *Synthesia*
- 09.25** **Questions and Answers**, moderated by *ChatGPT*
- 09.30** **Meeting Closing**, by *UNICRI and UNOCT*

¹ Speaker will speak in personal capacity, not on behalf of OpenAI