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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

From Principles to Practice: Special Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Concept Note

12 FEBRUARY 2026

14:00-16:00 | Conference Room 8 | United Nations Headquarters, New York

Context

Artificial intelligence (AI) is rapidly reshaping the global information environment, security landscape and the ways in which societies communicate, mobilize, and govern. While AI presents significant opportunities to enhance efforts for preventing and countering violent extremism conducive to terrorism (PCVE), it is also being actively exploited by terrorist actors to accelerate propaganda production, amplify disinformation, and lower barriers to operational planning. This landscape highlights the importance of examining the human rights and gendered implications of AI for PCVE, including addressing how AI can be exploited to spread discriminatory narratives that drive recruitment and radicalization to violence.

Despite the growing urgency of this challenge, most Member States and practitioners engaged in PCVE lack sector-specific guidance, institutional readiness, and practical capacity to assess and responsibly integrate AI into PCVE policy and practice. A global survey[1] conducted by the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) revealed that fewer than one quarter of policymakers and practitioners currently use AI in their PCVE work, with significant gaps in AI literacy, governance frameworks, and human rights safeguards.

At the same time, inappropriate or ungoverned use of AI in PCVE carries serious risks, including algorithmic bias, privacy violations, discrimination, over-surveillance, and the erosion of trust between institutions and communities. These risks underscore the need for a principled, human rights-based and gender-responsive approach that balances innovation with accountability, transparency, and do-no-harm safeguards.

[1] In 2025, UNOCT's Global PCVE Programme undertook a global survey of PCVE practitioners and policymakers, and responses were received from 120 individuals from across 45 countries. Survey findings are reflected in the Practice Guide on AI and PCVE.

This challenge has been explicitly recognized by Member States through recent General Assembly resolutions and policy processes, including the eighth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and broader system-wide discussions on AI, emerging technologies, and peace and security. These discussions, advanced under the Secretary-General's leadership, including through the High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, as well as the adoption of the Global Digital Compact under the Pact for the Future, underscore the need for timely, coordinated, and PCVE-focused action aligned with the UN's wider framework for responsible AI governance.

Project Overview

It is within this strategic context that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT), within UNOCT, and in partnership with the Republic of Korea, has implemented the Artificial Intelligence and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (AI and PCVE) Project.

Implemented under UNOCT's Global Programme on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, the project supports Member States and practitioners in navigating both the opportunities and risks of AI in PCVE through evidence-based guidance, capacity-building, and cross-sector dialogue. It represents the first UN-system initiative dedicated specifically to the intersection of AI and PCVE, and brings together practitioner-oriented, human rights-based guidance, practical tools, and risk mitigation measures within a single, coherent framework: the Practice Guide on AI and PCVE.

Drawing on emerging research, global survey findings, and expert consultations, this cornerstone output translates these inputs into practical, operational guidance for policymakers and practitioners. The Guide examines how AI is currently being misused by violent extremist actors, identifies areas where AI can responsibly support PCVE objectives, and outlines approaches to mitigating risks related to human rights, gender, ethics, and governance in practice.

The project is complemented by a pilot curriculum, designed to operationalize the Guide and strengthen institutional readiness, including through tools for AI risk assessment, human rights due diligence, stakeholder engagement, and organizational capacity-building.

This initiative contributes directly to the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and responds to recent General Assembly mandates highlighting both the risks and potential of emerging technologies, including AI, in the context of terrorism prevention. It also supports broader UN system efforts on AI governance, digital cooperation, and the Pact for the Future, including Action 23 on emerging technologies and peace and security.

Objectives

Marking the International Day for the Prevention of Violent Extremism as and when conducive to terrorism on 12 February, the 2026 observance will focus on preventing violent extremism in the digital age, with particular attention to new and emerging technologies. Against this backdrop, the Special Dialogue co-organized by UNOCT and the Republic of Korea will convene a focused multi-sector exchange to examine AI and organisational readiness in PCVE.

Specific objectives are to:

- Increase awareness of the evolving AI and PCVE landscape, including how violent extremist actors are exploiting AI and its related implications for PCVE.
- Examine the human rights, gender, ethical, and operational risks associated with AI-enabled PCVE tools as well as discuss concrete strategies for risk mitigation, human rights-based and responsible governance.
- Showcase practical experiences and emerging opportunities for the responsible use of AI in PCVE, including perspectives from practitioners, platforms, youth, and policymakers.

- Launch the UNOCT Practice Guide on AI and PCVE, highlighting its purpose and practical value for policymakers and practitioners.
- Highlight key lessons learned from the AI and PCVE Project and outline priorities the next iteration of this work with a focus on organizational readiness, leadership, and institutional capacity.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder dialogue and cross-UN coherence on AI, PCVE, and digital governance.

Logistics

The Special Dialogue will take place in-person at UN Headquarters in New York. Prior registration is requested by all those intending to join. Registration can be completed here. The meeting will be conducted in English.

For any questions regarding this event, kindly contact: Ms. Lily Vicente, Programme Management Officer, UNOCT/UNCCT, at lilian.vicente@un.org.