

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the United Nations, New York Security Council - 2021-2022

INFORMAL BRIEFING ON COUNTERING THE USE OF NEW AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR TERRORIST PURPOSES

TAJ PALACE HOTEL, NEW DELHI, INDIA - 29th Oct. 2022

STATEMENT BY AMB. MICHAEL KIBOINO, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Thank you, Madam Chair,

On behalf of Kenya's delegation I thank you and the Government of India for organising this Special Meeting of the Security Council's Counter Terrorism Committee.

Today, we have had informative presentations and useful recommendations from Member States, experts, civil society representatives, academia and other stakeholders on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes.

We share in the concern over the increasing use by terrorist groups of the internet and other information and communications technologies, including social media platforms for recruitment and incitement to commit terrorist acts, as well as for the financing, planning, and preparation of their activities.

Also alarming is the increasing global misuse of unmanned aerial systems (UAS) by terrorists to conduct terrorist attacks targeting civilians as well as critical infrastructure. Indeed, the use of drones and other emerging technologies by terrorists makes the threat of terrorism more existential than ever before.

In Africa, the proliferation of easily accessible unmanned aerial systems (UAS) and their potential weaponization by terrorist groups will worsen the already grave the threat of terrorism. There are indications that Al-Shabaab is already using commercial drones to conduct surveillance and reconnaissance missions aimed at stalling the military advances of Somalia's National Army and the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS).

Clearly, **Chairperson**, our counter-terrorism efforts must be ahead of the threat especially in countering the use of new and emerging technologies. In this regard, Kenya welcomes the Delhi Declaration and underscores the following **five** action points:

- i) Member States must urgently design and rollout robust defence and security strategies to counter the misuse of new technologies by terrorist groups.
- ii) Law enforcement agencies must pursue collaborative efforts at national, regional and multilateral levels to stay ahead of the evolving technology curve. This is with a view to deny terrorists the ability to access the digital space or acquire Unmanned Aerial Systems or their components for operational purposes.
- iii) It is critical to deprive terrorist groups territorial spaces from where to spread their toxic propaganda and launch attacks. In this regard, countries in conflict situations or those in fragile situations should be assisted to build the necessary capacities to effectively administer their ungoverned or inadequately governed territories.

- iv) There is need to adopt a multi-sector approach in countering the use of new and emerging technologies by terrorist groups. Member states should therefore incorporate the private sector and civil society in developing and implementing the necessary measures including laws and regulations for the acquisition, use and transfer of technology.
- v) Effective Counter-terrorism strategies require a structured and global partnership approach. Member States, the Security Council, UN bodies and agencies, and civil society actors among other relevant stakeholders are integral in this multilateral approach. We must all work together while being careful not to stifle innovation.

In conclusion, Kenya's delegation is grateful to the Government and the people of their exceptional hospitality. And we commend you, Madam Chair, for your pragmatic leadership of the work of the Counter-terrorism committee.

I thank you.