

Concept note

Special meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee with Member States and relevant international and regional organizations on Terrorists from Exploiting the Internet and Social Media to Recruit Terrorists and Incite Terrorist Acts, while Respecting Human Rights and Fundamental

New York, 17 December 2015

I. Introduction

1. Terrorist groups have proved in recent years that they are particularly adept at utilizing the Internet and social media to facilitate their activities, including incitement to commit a terrorist act, radicalization to violence, recruitment, training, planning, collection of information, communication, preparation, financing and execution of attacks. In addition to Al-Qaida, one terrorist entity that has benefited significantly from ICT is the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as Daesh. ISIL and its supporters exploit the Internet as a means to broadcast its ideology and has made effective use of the vast reach and rapidly evolving communications environment provided by social media applications, which also serve as a highly effective tool for ISIL recruitment, who have succeeded in attracting a global pool of around 25,000 foreign fighters from over 100 States.

2. Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) calls upon all Member States to find ways of intensifying and accelerating the exchange of operational information, especially concerning the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by terrorist groups. It also provides that States shall refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including by suppressing recruitment of members of terrorist groups. Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) calls upon all States to adopt such measures as may be necessary and appropriate and in accordance with their obligations under

