



In the time of pandemic, people are spending more time online than ever before, being exposed to disinformation and terrorist ideologies and propaganda. The multitude of misinformation, increased expressions of discrimination and xenophobia, as well as the socio-economic consequences if unresolved can contribute to conditions conducive to terrorism and violent extremism.

Understanding the interaction between the pandemic and the threats of global terrorism will provide insights into how to better combat terrorism in the post-pandemic environment and prepare ourselves for future threats.

I take this opportunity to commend the Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) for organising this timely event.

I echo several panelists that at all times we must remain vigilant to the scourge of terrorism. And we must prevent and fight terrorism together. Like the pandemic, international terrorism respects no border. No country is safe until all is safe. An essential





Finally, the strong focus must always be on prevention. The key to prevent and counter the threats of terrorism lies in addressing the root causes of terrorism, including unemployment, injustices, inequities, discrimination, marginalization and unresolved conflicts. We must remain firmly committed to resolving conflicts, eradicating poverty, promoting sustained economic growth and development and ensuring respect for human rights for all. We must ensure a whole-of-society approach. I would like to acknowledge the role and potential of women in preventing and countering terrorism. We must not lose sight of the vulnerabilities of young people in the digital environment. They should be involved in the promotion of a culture of peace and tolerance through education, job generation and empowerment.

Let me conclude by reiterating the firm position of our Government to reject and condemn terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I thank you./.