**OSCE CVE conference intervention: short version**

Thank you Mr Chair.

Last year, the ICT4Peace Foundation and the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate carried out the first phase of a project addressing the problem of terrorist use of internet and communications technology around the world, in cooperation with major IT and social media companies. It represents a joint effort under a mandate from the United Nations Security Council.

This work has now evolved into the “Tech Against Terrorism” initiative, which seeks to build bridges and cooperation between business and government, civil society and academia and to provide new and emerging technology firms in need of capacity assistance with practical tools to help them better tackle the problem.

The project was recently referred to in UN Security Council document S/2017/375 on the “Comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives”, in the context of public-private partnerships.

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There are currently three main strands to the work being carried out by ICT4Peace and UN CTED under the Tech Against Terrorism banner:

*First*, we are working to better understand the contours of the problem.

We are doing this initially by organising  **workshops for IT Start-up companies** and focus group sessions in London and elsewhere in the UK, in partnership with Facebook, Google, Twitter, Microsoft and others.

We plan to extend this work beyond the UK in due course, in order to amplify our message and assist new and emerging technology businesses in other regions of the world.

*Second*, we will be working to facilitate the provision of operational support to technology startups on both the technical and legal aspects of the issue.

*Third*, we are intending to develop a collection of practical online tools that new and emerging businesses can draw on to help them proactively and reactively address the terrorism and extremism problem that they may encounter.

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This initiative is being driven by the desire to build trust between the various sectors affected by the issue and to promote the successes of industry-driven self-regulation as an alternative to any kind of imposed legislative, regulatory approach.

The Tech Against Terrorism team believe that there is great promise in helping both the private and public sector with ways to better confront the problem, to learn from one another and to shape responses that are more effective and efficient while upholding human rights and fundamental freedoms.

There is great interest within the technology industry in combating the use of internet and communications services by terrorists and extremists and closing down vulnerabilities and ICT4Peace and UN CTED are committed to facilitating tangible methods of helping do so.

Simultaneously we are striving to help build a cooperative, streamlined public-private environment in which online counter-terrorism efforts can be made as effective and quick to respond to emerging trends as possible.

We are interested in talking with businesses, governments, civil society and academia about these issues and about our work and we are open to all participants to contact us for more information and to discuss further the challenges involved.

Thank you.