

Open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on

of

*United Nations Headquarters, New York,
Thursday 24 March 2022, ECOSOC Chamber*

Opening statement of

**Mr. Weixiong Chen, Acting Executive Director
Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED)**

Excellencies, Distinguished Representatives, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) is pleased to have organized this open meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee on Security Council resolution 2354 and countering terrorist narratives.

It has been more than two years since the last open meeting on this resolution, in January 2020, and much has happened in the world since then. Yet one of the things that has remained is the continuation of terrorists to seek to craft and spread their messages far and wide, online and offline, including by distorting religious texts, in order to gain support, raise funds, recruit new fighters, and plan attacks.

Terrorists sometimes use messaging aimed at exploiting legitimate grievances, based on such factors as discrimination, exclusion, patterns of

human rights violations, and other grounds. Such messages have presented great challenges for developing effective counter-narratives.

The main objective of resolution 2354 is to encourage States, in partnership with others, to counter and challenge the messages promoted by terrorists and those who advocate violent extremism conducive to terrorism.

One of our guiding principles, contained in the Council resolutions, is that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

The Counter-Terrorism Committee has also made it clear -- including in its Comprehensive International Framework -- that while rejecting calls for terrorist violence is essential, it is also essential to offer positive messages: messages that offer hope, and a vision of a better future, and that address grievances through legitimate pathways for social development.

We believe it is helpful if Governments remain mindful of this approach, in developing positive narratives and credible alternatives to those of terrorists. Governments should take the lead in this work. But there can be no doubt that their efforts will be strengthened if they consider establishing strong partnerships with non-Governmental actors, including civil society groups, the private sector,

Throughout the exercise, one should also remain mindful of the requirements of international human rights law, including the principles of