Fourth United Nations
HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON COUNTER-TERRORISM

29-30 JUNE 2026

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS • NEW YORK

Concept note

A Future Free from Terrorism: Consolidating the Global Commitment to Multi-Stakeholder Approaches to Counter Terrorism through Member States' Leadership and Action

New York

2026 COUNTER-TERRORISM WEEK

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Introduction

The Fourth High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, convened under the auspices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will be the flagship event of the Fourth Counter-Terrorism Week at the United Nations, from 29 June to 2 July 2026 in New York.

The High-Level Conference will take place on 29-30 June and bring together Member States, represented by Ministers and heads of national counter-terrorism agencies, regional organizations, civil society, victims of terrorism, women and youth-led organizations, academia, and the private sector.

The High-Level Conference will provide an opportunity to advance the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, strengthen international cooperation, and address evolving terrorism threats through inclusive, coordinated approaches. The review of the Strategy is ongoing and a resolution will be tabled for adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 1-2 July 2026.

Context and Conference Theme

Despite ongoing efforts in the fight against terrorism, the phenomenon remains a complex and evolving transnational threat. Terrorist groups increasingly exploit conflict situations, governance gaps, socio-economic inequalities, and emerging technologies to expand their influence and operational capacity. If left unaddressed, terrorism will pose an even greater threat in the future.

Since the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, Member States have reaffirmed their commitments to the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, and whole-of-society approaches.

In line with the Pact for the Future, the High-Level Conference emphasizes integrated responses linking peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights as essential to addressing terrorism in an effective, comprehensive, and sustainable manner.

Conference Objectives

The Conference aims to:

- Strengthen multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation
- Promote inclusive and gender-responsive approaches to preventing and countering terrorism
- Advance support to Member States through capacity-building, knowledge-sharing, and policy innovation
- Enhance responses to emerging technologies and digital threats

It will highlight the importance of involving civil society, victims of terrorism, and front-line community actors in shaping responses, while reinforcing United Nations system coordination and partnerships through the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact chaired by UNOCT .

Conference Structure

This in-person Conference will include:

- A High-Level Opening Session
- Four thematic working sessions
- A Closing Session

It will feature assessments of the global terrorism threat, interactive policy dialogues, and the sharing of good practices and lessons learned in the implementation of national and regional counter-terrorism efforts.

High-Level Opening Session

The opening session will set the strategic direction, emphasizing the importance of Member State leadership and international cooperation in addressing terrorism in a rapidly changing global context. It will feature high-level speakers, including United Nations leadership and government representatives.

Thematic Working Sessions

Thematic Working Session I: Addressing Terrorism in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Contexts

Thematic Working Session I will focus on high-risk environments where instability, weak governance, and humanitarian crises create conditions conducive to terrorism. Discussions will highlight integrated responses combining security, development, human rights, and community engagement.

Thematic Working Session II: Strengthening Coordination and Coherence Through Networked Multilateralism

Thematic Working Session II will examine how the United Nations system and partners can enhance coordination through networked multilateralism. Emphasis will be placed on joint delivery, information-sharing, and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Thematic Working Session III: The Global Terrorism Threat Landscape

Thematic Working Session III will provide an overview of the evolving global terrorism threat landscape, including the activities of listed terrorist groups and emerging trends such as online radicalization to violence, transnational networks, and links to organized crime and geopolitical instability.

Thematic Working Session IV: Strategic Capacity-Building Responses: Countering the Misuse of AI and New and Emerging Technologies

Thematic Working Session IV will address the misuse of technologies such as artificial intelligence, digital platforms, and cyber tools. It will highlight capacity-building, innovation, and the need for human rights-compliant governance frameworks in counter-terrorism.

Plenary Closing Session: Looking Ahead to the Ninth Review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the 20th Anniversary of the GCTS: Operationalizing Sustainable Counter-Terrorism Outcomes

The Closing Session will:

- Summarize key Conference discussions and outcomes
- Outline forward-looking priorities
- Contribute to the ninth review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as the international community marks its 20th anniversary

UNOCT will prepare a summary report capturing key outcomes and recommendations.

Side Events

Nearly 40 side events will be held during the Counter-Terrorism Week, complementing the High-Level Conference by addressing thematic, regional, and operational issues related to preventing and countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism.