

And it continues to pose a significant threat to international peace and security.

In its new guise, ISIL has proven particularly adept at harnessing information and communications technologies to recruit new members and to incite and plan attacks around the world.

And the narratives of ISIL and other terrorist organizations continue to resonate with many different audiences.

Those audiences may have varying profiles, but all share the characteristics of vulnerability and susceptibility that ISIL seeks to exploit.

And in many Member States, it is young people that are the most vulnerable.

Terrorist use of the Internet and social media to spread propaganda requires a robust response from the international community.

That response must, of course, be led by Member States, acting in cooperation with one another and with the United Nations.

And it is the nature of that response that has been the focus of our discussions today.

Of course, speech that either intends to incite terrorist violence or creates the danger of inciting terrorist violence is []TJETQ0.00000912 0 62 792 reW*nBTF1 12.96n92 reO62 792 reV

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The right to freedom of expression, including under article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, is not absolute.

But our discussions have also made clear that repressive measures and the taking down of online content intended to incite violence will not alone be sufficient to counter the threat posed by terrorist narratives.

Terrorist messages must be addressed in their substance if not directly, then through counter-messages.

Those counter-messages must expose and refute the flaws and the hatred contained in compelling arguments that are founded on reason and analysis and framed in a targeted and thoughtful manner that resonates with intended audiences.

But nor is it enough simply to rebut their arguments.

We who oppose terrorism must also offer positive arguments that promote shared values, community solidarity, and human rights.

Our arguments must address the very real concerns that terrorists seek to exploit and they must propose alternative avenues towards conflict resolution, justice, and empowerment, which respect the values and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

We must also help build more resilient communities, through genuine partnerships with civil society, community and religious leaders, young people, academics, the private sector and other non-governmental actors.

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We must also recognize the crucial role that