



**CZECH REPUBLIC**

**Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the International Organizations in Vienna**

Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering  
the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal

**Fourth Session**

**Agenda Item 4 – Criminalization**

**Statement by**

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Thank you Madam Chair,

And thank you for all the work you and your team have done to prepare this very important session. First of all, let me wish everyone a happy new year and good luck in both professional and private lives. Since this is usually the time to make new year's wishes and resolutions, we would like to make a wish that our discussions and negotiations this year will go smoothly, guided by the Vienna spirit of consensus, and that by the end of the year we will have an almost-ready convention under which all of us could subscribe.

And as the New Year is also a time for new beginnings, we strongly believe it is the high time that Russia puts a new beginning to its stance toward Ukraine; that Russia immediately stops its illegal occupation of the Ukrainian territory and all its acts of aggression, so that all the people there on both sides can live peacefully and freely again, without any threat of military, cyber or hybrid attack.

Madam Chair, the Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and adds the following in its national capacity.

We very much welcome the consolidated negotiating document and believe it forms a great basis for our discussions these two weeks. On the part on criminalization, we strongly support the inclusion of Articles 6 to 10 of the CND which are the cyber-dependent crimes, and we have been making it clear from the beginning that cyber-dependent crimes should be the core of the convention. From our point of view, these articles would even be sufficient for the criminalization chapter in the convention, as these are the acts to be criminalized that all of us can agree upon.

For the cyber-enabled crimes, in general, we are not very much in favor of including them in this convention. Not that we would not consider them seriously or not see the urge to tackle them but we just think they are either tackled sufficiently in other international instruments, or that it is not very likely that we would reach consensus on them here within the short deadline that we have. On the other hand, we understand the needs and reasons of other countries for including certain cyber-enabled crimes in this convention as well, for example child sexual abuse in Article 18, so we are open to discuss such articles further.

We are of the view that the substance of, in particular, Articles 26-29 on armed activities, extremism, genocide or terrorism, are to be tackled at other, more relevant fora, and are actually already discussed there, and should not be part of this convention.

We strongly support the inclusion of Article 35 on the liability of legal persons and Article 36 on participation and attempt as well as Article 39 on prosecution, adjudication and sanctions.

Madam Chair, this is all for now for the start and let me reiterate the support of the Czech Republic to your efforts. Thank you.