

**Statement by the Delegation of the Russian Federation at the end of the 6th session of the
6th session of the UN Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of a universal convention on
combating information crime**

universal convention on combating information crime

Honourable Chairperson,

Distinguished representatives of the delegations of the UN Member States,

We welcome the efforts of the delegations of UN Member States to finalise the zero draft of the universal convention on combating information crime - the first document in the field of international information security, the work on which has been launched at the initiative of Russia.

The results of the session are contradictory. We have before us a "red text" filled with the approaches of States. Unfortunately, the ICT terminology agreed upon within the mandate of the Special Committee has not yet been introduced into the text. The edits made have significantly exceeded the length of the original document. The key articles of the future convention on scope, criminalisation, jurisdiction, procedural measures and international cooperation have been adjusted.

On the one hand, this shows the shortcomings of the zero draft, which did not take into account the positions of all delegations. On the other hand, it shows the intention of their representatives, especially those from developing countries, to broaden the scope of the future treaty. In other words, to fulfil the mandate of UNGA resolution 74/247 and its stipulation to develop a comprehensive document. That is, one that would not become another Budapest Convention, but would make a step forward towards covering all crimes involving the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) and ensuring effective law enforcement co-operation.

We note that the zero draft introduces practically nothing new to improve the effectiveness of international co-operation in combating ICT crimes. Neither in terms of criminalisation nor in terms of operational activities, including, for example, the prevention and suppression of ICT crimes. The document reflects the interests mainly of those delegations that for many years obstructed the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee and voted against resolution 74/247. This was evidenced by the numerous edits calling for the return of the original text, especially on the key section on criminalisation.

There is some logic in this approach to the Zero Draft, since the main developers of ICTs are developed countries that have a legal system in place to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, including the fight against terrorism and extremism. The question is why these countries do not dare to co-operate within the UN framework and oppose the inclusion of relevant articles in the international document. They insist on rolling back the original text, which is a "minimal compromise". This is not a compromise, but the imposition of an empty document from the point of view of added value on the part of the opponents of the mandate of the Special Committee to the States interested in the fight against crime. We see in this attitude a policy of double standards and a violation of one of the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations - the principle of international co-operation.

Russia makes this observation in contrast to the frantic endeavour of the above-mentioned States to saturate the text of the future treaty with numerous human rights clauses. Diplomats from a certain group of countries are presenting themselves as if they were the main defenders of human rights and freedoms. They insist, for example, on gender priorities in extradition issues. We are perplexed by this. It is not clear at all why so much attention is being paid to this when the mandate of the Special Committee does not include human rights priorities. We know from our experience in the OSCE that

slogans about the protection of human rights are needed by their supposed champions for one purpose only - to evade fulfilment of their treaty obligations.

We repeat: only close law enforcement co-operation on these issues can make life much more difficult for criminals. This is precisely the aim of the efforts of Russia and like-minded countries in support of such parts of the future treaty as international co-operation, capacity-building and technical assistance.

Mistakes happen. That's normal. It is important to draw conclusions. There will be difficult and hard work to be done to bring the approaches between States closer. Intersessional meetings and the 7th session lie ahead. We hope that the fears expressed by our friends that the next negotiating document will be identical to the zero draft are nothing more than fears or rumours. Only consideration of the interests of all States without exception can lead to the development of a truly comprehensive treaty on combating information crime, the relevance and potential of which will remain for many decades.

We call on the secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee to assist in the development of the future treaty. We urge you to be more attentive and to put the proposals of all countries, not those of a narrow group of States, on the screen. Russia achieved the reflection of proposals on criminalising articles only a week after this call had been made and only after we had submitted a proposal in writing.

We look forward to continuing our constructive work in the remaining time. We are ready to co-operate with all delegations. We are determined to give primary consideration to the interests of developing States, which are the most exposed to threats in the ICT sphere. We are preparing a document that will be the basis for international legal co-operation, for the effective work of law enforcement agencies around the world and for the development of national legislations. We are ready to contribute to common efforts to ensure that the convention being drafted becomes the first universal international treaty in the field of international information security.

Thank you for your attention.