

**Statement by Ambassador Lourdes Victoria-Kruse at the informal consultations regarding the implementation process of GA resolution 74/247**

*July 10, 2020*

Thank you.

We would like to begin our remarks by recognizing the work carried out by the UNODC Secretariat to implement General Assembly Resolution 74/247, and in particular, for its efforts in putting together concrete proposals for the preparation of the August organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee.

The Dominican Republic would like to reiterate its compromise with this process and its willingness to work together with all Member States in order to have an international treaty that represents each and everyone of us.

We strongly believe that this process must be guided by the principles of transparency, impartiality and inclusiveness, and that human rights and fundamental freedoms should be safeguarded all along the way.

To this end, a neutral Chair and a balanced bureau will be crucial.

As an example of our commitment with this process, the Dominican Republic has nominated Mr. Claudio Peguero, Special Advisor of the Dominican Government for Cybercrime Matters, for one of the Vice Chair positions in the Ad Hoc Committee, given his solid 17-year hands-on experience in cybercrime and cybersecurity, and his previous work as our delegate in the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of Cybercrime.

We trust that in the coming weeks our regional group, GRULAC, will reach an agreement with the view of getting to the August meeting with a clean slate.

We are confident that working together, on the basis of a consensus decision-making process, will benefit the future success of an international treaty, as we will need the firm commitment of all countries in order to make it an effective instrument. Hence, we support the proposal submitted by the delegation of Canada, in the sense that the Ad Hoc Committee should work on the basis consensus.

Regarding the draft documents submitted by the Secretariat: the draft provisional agenda and the draft background paper, we would like to share the following considerations.

First of all, we would like to reiterate our support to the draft provisional agenda as originally proposed by the Secretariat, as we believe it is in accordance with UN usual practice.

Second of all, regarding the draft background paper, we believe that, in general terms, the document is in accordance with the paths followed by similar processes, particularly, the elaboration of UNTOC and UNCAC. Additionally, we welcome the fact that it establishes in a clear manner that the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee should take place in Vienna. To that extent, we believe it is a good starting point for the discussions that should follow.

Regarding the organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee to take place in August, we believe that substantive matters should not be discussed, as the discussions should be limited to procedural matters.

Last but not least, we strongly advocate that the expertise of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of Cybercrime is taken into consideration.

Once again, the Dominican Republic reiterates its compromise with this process and its willingness to work together with all Member States for a successful outcome.

We thank Secretariat for convening this meeting as we believe these exchanges contribute to finding common areas of interest, benefiting the process as a whole. In this sense, we would like to see a more engaged Secretariat moving forward, working back to back with Member States and actively proposing alternative ways when encountering obstacles to advance in the process.

We would also like to express our desire for our next meeting regarding this matter to be held in-person at the VIC, with at least one delegate per Member State, as it is going to be the case with other meetings in the coming weeks.

We look forward to hear the views of other delegations.

Thank you very much.