

Egypt is a strong supporter of the open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. We believe it is essential for the work of the committee to be inclusive, comprehensive, and effective, in order for the process of elaborating the new convention to produce a result that is of value to the international community.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Egypt would like to provide the following comments regarding the modalities for further activities of the open-ended ad hoc committee, and the proposal of the Secretariat contained in the background paper that was circulated on this matter:

- 1- Egypt strongly believes that future sessions of the ad hoc committee should be held in Vienna. Vienna holds the greater share of UN expertise on cybercrime, whether in the Permanent Missions or the UNODC. Moreover, cybercrime issues are the mandate of UNODC within the UN system, and UNODC will be acting as Secretariat to the ad hoc Committee, making it more practical and cost-effective to hold the meetings at UNODC's HQ in Vienna.
- 2- The zero draft of the convention on countering the criminal use of ICTs that will form the basis of the ad hoc committee's deliberations should be presented by the Chair of the ad hoc Committee. While the Secretariat's role in formulating the draft will be essential, the Chair must bear the responsibility of presenting such a draft. As such, the Chair must be elected well in advance of the preparation of a zero draft.
- 3- The contributions of Member States will be essential in guiding the Chair and the Secretariat when preparing the zero draft of the convention. To ensure transparency, the contributions provided by every Member State for the zero draft must be made available and accessible to all other Member States no later than the date of the circulation of the zero draft itself.
- 4- The work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group on drafting a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime will also be instrumental to the new convention. The outcomes of the meetings of that expert group, and in particular those of the stock-taking meeting scheduled for 2021, should be duly taken into account when formulating the zero draft of the new convention.
- 5- It will be essential to determine the scope of the new convention, in terms of the particular crimes and activities covered by its provisions, at an early stage of the process. This will ensure that we avoid discussions about any fundamental re-drafting of the convention once we have produced a zero draft.

6- Unlike the processes for UNCAC and UNTOC, the process for the cybercrime convention should distinguish between the engagement with the private sector on the one hand, and civil society on the other. This particular convention may require an especially significant input from private sector actors due to the uniquely important role they play in the field of ICT. As such, a specific mechanism may be needed to organize their inputs and participations. As for civil society organizations, participation of those that enjoy consultative status with ECOSOC, via the standard mechanisms, should be sufficient, as per the practice that was observed during the process of formulating the UNTOC.