

Concept Note of the Russian Federation on Technology Transfer within the Framework of the Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) for Criminal Purposes

Digital gap is the key reason for the emergence of safe havens for individuals and groups committing criminal offences covered by this Convention.

Impeding access to technologies prevents the alignment of security degrees between the developed and developing worlds, fuels the growth and prosperity of criminal networks. It harms society and threatens political, social and economic sustainability of states being in urgent need of technical assistance to counter ICT-crime, which is **transboundary** in nature. The urgency of the problem of unequal technological and digital development has been repeatedly recognized by UN Member States, including in relevant **General Assembly Resolutions, such as UNGA Resolution 70/1 «Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development»**, adopted on September 25th, 2015.

Being deprived of the opportunity to manufacture or otherwise acquire the know-how needed to prevent, suppress, detect and combat the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, countries end up in an extremely vulnerable situation – left alone with a rising crime.

Bridging the digital gap and eliminating technological disparity are among the primary objectives of the future Convention. The ultimate goal is to merge the potentials of the developed and developing countries, creating a comprehensive and efficient global system to counter ICT-crime.

Access to expertise and material and technical base that enhance the ability to counter ICT-crime, including its prevention, should not be regarded as a privilege. It is an inherent right of all UN Member States, without exception. Denial of technical assistance at request is often a consequence of the pursuit of narrow economic and geopolitical interests, a manifestation of the desire to maintain a monopoly on technological superiority. The reluctance to carry out such transfers

due to the alleged risks of the proliferation of dual-use items and materials or under any other pretexts is an unconvincing excuse for some developed states.

The Russian Federation supports the idea, expressed by many members of the Ad Hoc Committee, **that the provisions on technology transfer and capacity building at the request of participating countries should be included in the draft text (at least in the Preamble and Article 56)**. Such assistance could be provided through the provision of software, hardware and hardware-software systems, as well as advanced training courses, workshops, exchange of experience, and training by states with relevant resources and expertise to better prevent ICT-crime. By bridging the digital gap we are fulfilling one of the guiding principles of the UN Charter – on the sovereign equality of states. This approach is consistent with **the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. The importance of enabling the achievement of the SDGs is reflected **in Paragraph 1, Article 56 of the current draft treaty**.