CONCEPT NOTE BY THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
ON THE NOTION OF «PREVENTION/SUPPRESSION/DETERRENCE»

Investigation of a crime carried out with the purpose of bringing to justice those committing them is an important task of law enforcement agencies. However, it is also the ability to prevent and suppress (deter) the commission of a criminal act at the stage of planning and preparation that helps to avoid any subsequent harm or damage and serves as an indicator of law enforcement agencies’ efficiency. Hence, the implementation by law enforcement agencies of measures to prevent and suppress (deter) criminal actions is aimed at ensuring the protection of individual and social rights.

Therefore, international treaties in the sphere of combating crime should encompass the whole range of international law enforcement cooperation aspects: detection, prevention, suppression (deterrence) and investigation.

Such mechanisms are provided by the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC), in particular, by Articles 7, 9, 11, 29, 30, 31 of this Convention, Articles 11, 12 of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the UNTOC, Articles 2, 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 17 of the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the UNTOC, and Articles 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 11-15 of the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the UNTOC.

By incorporating all the elements of combatting crime into the text, including prevention/suppression/deterrence, the Ad Hoc Committee maintains the line already adopted within the UN in ensuring the protection of individual and social rights. In this regard, we propose to include the abovementioned mechanisms in Articles 3, 23, 35, 41, 47 of the draft document.

Such an approach meets the requirements of UN General Assembly Resolution 74/247, establishing the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, including by the means of preventing and combating. It would enhance the application of the Convention on the ground, contribute to its practicability and efficiency in inhibiting criminal behavior, while boosting international cooperation and making it more useful for the developing countries, some of which still continue to face challenges in the implementation of crime prevention policies.