The title of the draft Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

Position paper

On 27 December 2019, the United Nations General Assembly adopted resolution 74/247 on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. The Ad Hoc Committee established by the resolution was mandated to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Specifically, OP2 of the resolution “decides to establish an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts, representative of all regions, to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes”.

The UN General Assembly consensus resolution 75/282 reiterated the language of UN GA resolution 74/247 on the question of developing an international treaty “on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes” (OP1 and OP11).

As one can see, the States Parties had agreed to use specifically ICT terminology, and to draft an exclusively comprehensive international treaty. However, during the concluding session of the Ad Hoc Committee (New York, 29 January – 9 February 2024), the title of the future international treaty on countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes was unexpectedly changed to the “UN Convention against Cybercrime”. This was done without consultation with the States Parties.

The draft version dated 6 February 2024 with the said title is in direct violation of UN General Assembly Resolutions 74/247 and 75/282. The Russian Federation believes that the Convention should be given its previous title under the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee established by the principal policy-making body of the United Nations. The title of the document and all the terminology should correspond to the conceptual framework of the above-mentioned resolutions.