

On behalf of End Child Prostitution, Child Pornography and Trafficking of Children for Sexual Purposes, Inc. (ECPAT-USA), enjoying ECOSOC special consultative status, we submit the following written intervention for publication to the Cybercrimes Ad Hoc Committee.

Background:

Human trafficking is a heinous crime that affects, according to the International Labour Organization, 24.9 million children, women and men and reaps \$150 billion in illicit profits, annually. Today more than ever before, so many trafficking crimes are perpetrated by viewing images of children being sexually abused and then sharing those images with others. In April, 2021 24 international experts were convened to identify recommendations for governments (including the United Nations), law enforcement, businesses and NGOs on ways to [bankrupt the business of human trafficking](#) by preventing demand for and the illicit profiteering. Most of the recommendations are analogous to the discussions regarding the cybercrimes convention and we submit the document as an aid to governments negotiating the terms of the convention.

Specific intervention:

ECPAT-USA believes that the convention should contain the following 4 points and urges all member states to reflect these points in their negotiations and in the final, approved version. The 4 points have been shared with the delegation from the United States of America and we were pleased to hear during the first committee sessions, that most member states agreed that pornographic and/or sexual images of children or non-consenting adults and hate speech, threats of violence utilizing ICTs, constituted cybercrimes.

4 Points:

- 1) Cybercrime definition, not limited to, and should include:
 - harassment and threats to cause and/or incite harm to individuals and groups (hate speech, racism, anti-Semitism, violence vs. politicians, journalists, etc.);
 - pornographic and/or sexual images of children (less than 18 years of age) or non-consenting adults;
 - using the internet to engage in human trafficking (language from the Palermo Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons).
- 2) Offenders should include any person, organization or government that profits from, perpetrates and/or enables cybercrime to be committed.
- 3) Jurisdiction for law enforcement, including investigations, and prosecution should not be limited to any territory and/or national boundary. It is global in nature and is perpetrated from anywhere in the world.
- 4) Convention should include language regarding specific goals in ending cybercrimes and the UN's ability to measure and report on achieving the goals.