

Turkey's Initial Views regarding the Scope, Objectives and Structure of an International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

Turkey attaches utmost importance to free, open and secure use of information and communication technologies around the world.

The development of information and communication technologies enhances the risk of misuse of these technologies for criminal purposes. Eliminating these risks and threats to the security of critical infrastructure facilities and to the fundamental rights and freedoms should be one of the top priorities of the international agenda. Due to the transnational nature of cyberspace, the impact of attacks in this field can reach up to the global level. Reducing the impact of these attacks is possible only with effective cooperation carried out at the global level.

In this regard, Turkey attaches utmost importance to effective international cooperation for a more stable and secure cyberspace at the global level. In this respect, Turkey is ready to contribute and support the ad hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. In this context, we would like to share our initial views on the scope, objectives and structure of the Convention.

Following issues need to be considered in the context of the Convention:

- the development of effective cooperation channels among States;
- clear definition of matters related to the criminal use of information and communication technologies;
- development of emergency communication channels among States;
- improving cyber threat intelligence gathering and acquisition resources;
- development of intelligence sharing among the relevant institutions of States;
- information sharing in cases of criminal use of information and communication technologies.

In addition, effective measures to prevent internal communication of criminals and terrorists and their propaganda activities should be included in the Convention.

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly increased the use of remote telecommunication; therefore, during the negotiations of the Convention, we should also consider the effects of the pandemic on the criminal use of information and communication technologies.

Besides, it will be beneficial to consider within the scope of the Convention the safe use of new generation technologies such as cloud computing, 5G, blockchain, IoT and artificial intelligence in fighting against crime and cyber attacks.