



Statement by INTERPOL at First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee on Structure of the Convention

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

[Madam Chairperson],

INTERPOL applauds Member States' commitment towards developing a comprehensive international convention to counter the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. We support the proposal for the structure of the Convention prepared by the Chair and the Secretariat.

Firstly, INTERPOL believes that it is important for Member States to agree on the **specific acts** in cyberspace that should be **criminalized**. Developing a minimum standard of criminalization and harmonizing national legislations would help to eliminate safe havens and forum shopping for cyber threat actors.

Furthermore, **procedural provisions** that facilitate the efficient and effective collection and preservation of electronic evidence, criminal intelligence and other relevant information are crucial. The use of **analytical** tools and other

technology to glean valuable insights from these data is also indispensable in helping law enforcement stay ahead of cybercriminals.

Thirdly, **international cooperation** is one of the key drivers of this Convention, and should be grounded in trust and reciprocity. As such, INTERPOL stresses the importance of **law enforcement cooperation and joint investigations**. The Convention should make good use of and strengthen many existing channels of communication and cooperative networks, including those of INTERPOL, instead of creating unnecessary duplications. **Mutual legal assistance** and **extradition** are also areas that the Convention is expected to cover. In line with Article 3 of INTERPOL's Constitution that enshrines the principle of **neutrality**, INTERPOL is fully committed to serve as an **impartial and trusted intermediary** that facilitates international cooperation between Member States.

Moreover, the Convention may contain provisions for **technical assistance and capabilities development**. INTERPOL's experience working on the ground with different member countries highlighted to us the wide "digital gap" that exists between nations and regions. The detection, investigation, disruption, and prosecution of cybercrime require specialized skillsets. It is thus important to provide adequate training to law enforcement officials and judicial personnel, especially in developing countries.

In addition, a comprehensive global framework to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes should not leave out **prevention**. Prevention can come in many forms: raising the awareness of the public, sharing information on cyberthreat and vulnerabilities, and more. It is widely recognized that the private sector can play a significant role in these aspects and often holds useful information about the cybercrime landscape. A multi-stakeholder approach must be taken and the Convention should aim to enhance **public-private partnerships**.

With that, thank you very much for your attention and INTERPOL looks forward to working closely with all Member States.