



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Statement by the Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the Ad hoc Committee for Elaboration of the Convention on
Countering the Use of ICT for Criminal Purposes
Agenda Item (7): Discussion and Decision-making on the Mode of Work of the
Ad Hoc Committee during Subsequent Sessions and Intersessional Periods**

(28 February-11 March 2022, New York)

Madam Chair.

I would like to congratulate the international women's day which is a fitting occasion to pay tribute to women all over the world for their indispensable role in realization of the noble aspirations of humanity.

We would like to express our profound appreciation to you for the extensive work done thus far and for proposing the draft roadmap and mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee which would expedite and facilitate conduct of business of the upcoming sessions of the committee.

Madam Chair.

Crimes committed via ICT and the harm they inflict upon our societies is unabatingly increasing, criminals swiftly expand their activities and exploit existing gaps in international cooperation; every single day we miss to step forward, we miss an opportunity to protect our people from falling victim to such crimes. The very rationale of resolution 75/282 regarding the adoption of the draft convention in 2024, was to respond to this daunting challenge and to ensure that the international community devises an efficient instrument under the auspices of the United Nations in due time. To this end, we would like to join many other Member States who reiterated that the future work of the Committee should be expedited and support your proposed arrangements based on which the first reading of the convention would be conducted in the second and third session and the second reading in the fourth and fifth session. This will ensure that the draft convention is adopted by the General Assembly in a timely manner as envisaged in the resolution.



Madam Chair.

The works of the committee should benefit from past experiences in holding informal meetings as it provides appropriate opportunities for Member States to delve into details of the convention, exchange their views and expedite the process. The importance of such forms of consultations is self-evident and the very draft proposal we have at hand now is a live example of the practical utility of informal consultations among Member States. Without informal meetings, a great portion of the time of formal sessions would have to be allocated to finding common grounds that could have otherwise and in a smooth manner been achieved in the first place. If we are concerned about time constraints, why not seizing the opportunities between the sessions to move forward.

Pertaining to the question of examining the draft documents and bearing in mind that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed, we are of the view that due to the nexus among different parts of the convention and the legal aspects surrounding some provisions in the light of other sections, grasping a general overview of the whole draft, and maintaining a balance among its provisions are essential. In the same vein, initiating the reading of future provisions should not be made contingent upon final conclusion on previous ones.

In addition, though it is appreciated that views of Member States on the provisions of the convention be expressed in the form of concrete draft proposals, the opportunity should be provided for Member States to reflect their views in other forms. In this respect, compilation of views of Member States should also include views expressed in various forms, including those delivered during this session.

Madam Chair.

Considering the intergovernmental nature of the Committee and in accordance with international law and the established practice, as expressed by several delegations, functions such as drafting and negotiation roles rests within the prerogatives of Member States. As such, we remain circumspect on suggestions that in variance with the established rules aim to confer such roles upon non-



governmental entities. This is not to prejudice the valuable role that these entities could play but to ensure adherence to the established rules and the very nature of international law.

I thank you