

**Statement by the Representative of Japan
at the First Session of the Ad Hoc Committee
to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention
on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies
for Criminal Purposes
(Agenda Item 3)**

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Madam Chair,
Excellencies,
and Distinguished Delegates,

First of all, I would like to convey my deep appreciation to the Chair and the Secretariat of the Ad Hoc Committee for Elaborating a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes for their devotion and coordination to hold this first session, overcoming the difficulties under the COVID-19 situation.

Madam Chair,

With the rapid development of information and communications technologies, the modus operandi of cybercrime is becoming increasingly sophisticated and complex. Furthermore, with the spread of COVID-19 and the accompanying changes in our lives, cybercrime has become even more serious.

If a country is not capable of combating cybercrime, the country might become a safe haven from which cybercrime would easily spread anywhere in the world. These crimes, which spread widely and easily cross borders, threaten the stability of people's lives around the world. This clearly shows that it is important for all Member States to enhance their capabilities to combat cybercrime and to take concerted measures to tackle cybercrime in a coordinated way with the international community.

Madam Chair,

Considering the current situation of cybercrime, Japan believes that we should strive for "a free, fair and secure cyberspace" and enhance our capability to prevent and combat cybercrime all over the world by making the new international convention universal and agreeable to all Member States.

From this perspective, Japan believes that the primary objective of the new convention should contribute to ensuring the safety, security and protection of the interests of all the people related to ICTs. This purpose cannot be achieved until measures against cybercrime are globally enhanced by establishing an international framework that is broadly applicable to cybercrime in its various transnational forms, and by assisting

effective bilateral and multilateral cooperation in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

Madam Chair,

Japan attaches importance to the drafting of the forthcoming convention to be an inclusive, transparent and fair process, and hopes that through discussions with all the Member States which are interested in this process, we will achieve this objective. We strongly believe that international rulemaking should be based on the mutual trust that each Member State will respect what they have agreed and will agree on.

In this regard, Japan is deeply concerned about reported Russian cyberattacks against Ukraine. Moreover, Russia's recent aggression against Ukraine constitutes a serious violation of international law. Japan condemns Russia's acts in the strongest terms.

Madam Chair,

As one of the Vice-Chairs, I will make every effort to achieve the objective of this negotiation process by providing appropriate support to the Chair in managing the proceedings so that opinions from different perspectives are appropriately reflected.

I thank you.