

STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SINGAPORE

Delivered by

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Madam Chair,

Singapore thanks you for putting forward the proposals on objectives and scope contained in document A/AC.291/CRP.8, which we note is the outcome of extensive consultations. We support it and would like to make the following points:

- Given the tight timeframe, and the range and complexity of issues that need to be discussed, we should strive towards achieving international consensus on the criminal justice response to cybercrime. It is important to stay clear of cybersecurity and internet governance issues in our deliberations.
- Instead, we should focus on practical solutions to crimes which are specific to or enabled by cyberspace. The term ‘cybercrime’ will sharpen the focus and enable a more pragmatic approach to moving the discussion forward.
- The new Convention should, first and foremost, be focused on cyber-dependent crimes. The scope of cyber-enabled crime is broad and can potentially include any type of traditional crime that can be committed through the use of computer systems or online. Inclusion will thus be unwieldy, pose implementation challenges, and inevitably dilute the focus on cybercrime that is of the greatest concern to member states.

- However, there are certain cyber-enabled crimes in which the severity, propensity for amplification through information and communications technologies, and public interest would deem them appropriate to also be included in the Convention and tackled at the international level in a concerted manner.
- Singapore supports the inclusion of ‘Online Harms’, given the importance of having globally aligned regulatory frameworks for online content. The growing challenge of harmful content propagated through cyberspace and its threat to the social fabric and institutional systems of nations necessitates better global response and regulation of the online space and platforms. The new Convention thus provides an opportunity for a targeted and coordinated approach in addressing such harms.
- The inclusion of other types of cyber-enabled crimes will need to be deliberated carefully and should be approached with restraint.
- We recognise that different countries have different legal systems and circumstances which could ultimately affect their ability to implement procedural measures. We should thus avoid being too prescriptive in terms of operational processes to allow applicability across a broader number of States, to effectively tackle cybercrime in a concerted manner globally.
- Finally, data privacy and human rights need to be balanced against the need to ensure public safety, including combatting cybercrimes to ensure online safety. While there should be safeguards to avoid encroaching on these rights where appropriate, we should also ensure that enforcement agencies are able to take necessary action to combat cybercrime quickly and effectively.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

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