

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF SINGAPORE**

**Delivered by**

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**Agenda Item 6**

**of the First Substantive Session of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee to  
Elaborate A Convention on Countering the Use of Information and  
Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**

Madam Chair,

As we had stated previously, Singapore is of the view that the Convention should be focused on cybercrime. We agree with colleagues who emphasised the need for technology neutral definitions so as to future-proof the Convention.

The criminalisation part of the Convention should be focused on cyber-dependent crimes. We believe this will help us avoid protracted debate and lead us more easily towards consensus and allow us to conclude our negotiations in a timely manner.

Singapore is prepared to consider a very limited number of cyber-enabled crimes. We will need discuss this but would agree that cyber fraud should be included.

Singapore also agrees with our colleagues from CARICOM, amongst others, that under the ambit of cyber-enabled crimes, content-related offences including child pornography, sexual grooming and other online harms should be included. 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. We stand ready to discuss with colleagues the list of crimes to be covered.

We agree with our colleague from Japan that the Convention should not include the transfer of prisoners. Singapore's criminal justice system holds as a fundamental principle that every person convicted of an offence will be treated equally. Foreigners who are sentenced to imprisonment terms are treated no different from Singapore citizens. It might be more efficient and preferable for member states to enter into bilateral agreements on this issue, to better meet each member states' needs, due to the differences in criminal justice systems across different member states.

Finally, we would like to reiterate that data privacy and human rights need to be balanced against the need to ensure public safety, including combating cybercrimes to ensure online safety. While we should take care to avoid encroaching on these rights wherever possible, 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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