



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: General debate

Statement by Slovenia

Monday, 28 February – Tuesday, 1 March

Madam Chair, Your Excellencies, Dear Colleagues,

Slovenia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to make the following remarks in its national capacity.

Today, first and foremost, we stand with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Slovenia condemns, in the strongest possible terms, Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and its continuous flagrant violation of the United Nations Charter and international law. Russia's disregard for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Ukraine not only undermines international peace and security, but also threatens the rules-based international order, the very foundation of the United Nations.

We call on Russia to immediately cease its military actions and stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

Madam Chair,

In these rather challenging times for dialogue and diplomacy, we praise your leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee. We thank you for your already tireless efforts towards this first negotiating session, and look to you for ensuring predictability, inclusiveness and a transparent working method in the future as well. You can continue to count on Slovenia's support.

We particularly welcome a true multi-stakeholder approach to this negotiating process. Civil society, private sector, academia and non-governmental organizations must join efforts in identifying common solution to the common problem.

Cybercrime activities in the recent period have demonstrated, in particular, the increased pervasiveness of ransomware, and their growing risk for all sectors of the economy and society at large. The scale of cybercrime activities has been extraordinary: in 2020, cost of cybercrime has been estimated to one trillion U.S. dollars, to focus just on the economic impact. At the same time, cybercrime presents an enormous threat to personal data, and individuals' human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Cybercrime can be expected to increase in impact and frequency. It is essential, therefore, for the international community to step up its fight against cybercrime.

Slovenia believes that an end result of the negotiating process at hand should be the text of the draft Convention that can be adopted by consensus.

A Convention should serve as a practical and an effective instrument for the national authorities in the global fight against cybercrime.

A Convention should add value to the existing international cooperation, and take into full consideration the existing framework of tried-and-tested international and regional instruments in the field of organized crime and cybercrime.



It should be in compliance with the international human rights standards and relevant human rights instruments to provide for full protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, which apply both offline and online. Furthermore, it should also comply with the principle of a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace.

Madam Chair,

Despite already having our eyes on an end result – a future UN Convention – we see the negotiating process being conducted best in a thematic, "chapter-by-chapter" approach. We believe such conduct would enable meaningful contributions by states, as well as by the national experts and practitioners.

By the end of the first negotiating session, we should make sure that agreements on the objectives, scope and structure of a future Convention and on establishing an inclusive and transparent programme of work for the subsequent formal negotiating session as well as for intersessional consultations are reached.

Thank you, Madam Chair.