



NATIONAL STATEMENT

BY

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE

**FIRST SESSION OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TASKED WITH
ELABORATING AN INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT TO COUNTER
THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES**

28 February -11 March 2022

Check against delivery

Madam Chairperson,

As noted by the United Nations Secretary-General in his report on Our Common Agenda, there is a need to reclaim the “digital commons”. This would require us to work together to harness the positive elements of the digital world and to address its harms. In this context, it is clear that international cooperation to deal with the scourge of cybercrime is essential.

We therefore take this opportunity to commend your outstanding leadership in guiding the work of the Ad Hoc Committee tasked with formulating a UN based international instrument aimed at countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes.

It is indeed opportune that member states work together to fulfil the mandate emanating from General Assembly Resolution 74/247 and South Africa is grateful for the substantive contribution made by member states in enabling the Secretariat to develop the conference room papers to guide our deliberations. I am pleased to inform the Conference that South Africa has since submitted to the UNODC Secretariat its contribution to the Objective; Scope and Structure of the envisaged Convention.

We look forward to a process of constructive feedback and engagement on the proposals put forward by all member states.

Madam Chair

It would be amiss of my delegation not to recognise the work of the Vienna-based Intergovernmental Expert Group tasked with conducting a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime and responses thereto by Member states, which concluded its work in 2021. South Africa was honoured to have chaired this process and we are optimistic that the

recommendations and conclusions emanating from the IEG would be taken into account in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Madam Chair,

An international instrument on cybercrime is necessary to fill the void that the two existing international crime conventions, UNCAC and the UNTOC do not cover. South Africa will strive to work in collaboration with all member states towards a consensus-based international instrument on cybercrime. Equally, and while respecting the intergovernmental nature of this process, South Africa encourages the contributions of the private sector, academia and non-governmental organisations in the elaboration of this instrument through a mutually agreed upon procedure.

Madam Chair

In light of the ever evolving and rapid nature of cybercrime, South Africa holds the view that it is critical for all member states to respect the work schedule of the Ad Hoc Committee to address this scourge with the necessary urgency that it deserves.

Head of Delegation:

I conclude Madam Chair by assuring you of our full support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. South Africa intends to make substantive contributions to the text of the Convention as the negotiation progresses and you can be assured of our constructive engagement towards reaching consensus in this regard.

I thank you