

**Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on
Countering the Use of Information and Communications
Technologies for Criminal Purposes
Statement of Türkiye
(New York, 28 February-11 March 2022)
(Agenda Item 3 – General Debate)**

Mr. Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, we congratulate you for your election to the Committee Bureau. We would like to thank the Chair of the Committee, her team and the Secretariat for their intensive efforts for the preparation of this session during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With respect to the situation in Ukraine, as our position is reflected in the official statements by our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Türkiye is against military aggression and our strong support for the sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity of Ukraine will continue.

Mr. Chair,

With respect to the future convention, we would like to underline the following points.

We attach utmost importance to free, open and secure use of information and communications technologies around the world. To this end, effective international cooperation is essential. In this respect, our country is ready to contribute and support the Ad Hoc Committee.

In this regard, the future convention should strengthen international cooperation and reinforce states' national capacities in preventing and combating cybercrime.

As stated in the General Assembly Resolution 75/282, the future convention should build upon the existing international and regional instruments and draw on the best practices in this field. The new convention should also avoid duplication.

Mr. Chair,

We consider that Chair's proposals on the objectives, scope and structure of the convention can serve as a good basis for our discussions.

For the convention to sustain effective international cooperation, clear and precise definition of the crimes in the context of the convention is essential.

We consider that the convention should particularly focus on preventing and combating cybercrime and facilitate mutual legal assistance in this field.

Eliminating threats to the fundamental rights and freedoms resulting from cybercrime should be an objective of the convention. In line with this point, the convention should contain strong safeguards for fundamental rights and freedoms, including right to privacy, protection of personal data, as well as for the actions to be carried out within the scope of the convention.

The convention should include mechanisms encouraging development of effective cooperation channels among states in addition to mechanisms for exchanging views and expert information about new developments and challenges in this field. In this way, the convention will reinforce states' capacity through technical assistance and sharing best practices.

The convention should also encompass the dynamic nature of the ICTs and challenges in this field. Therefore, the criminal provisions of the convention should also address future technologies.

In addition, effective measures to prevent internal communication of criminals and terrorists and their propaganda activities should be included in the convention.

Mr. Chair,

The roadmap proposed by the Chair is a good basis for discussing the structure and mode of work of the upcoming sessions of the Committee. We think that proceeding chapter-by-chapter is a practical and effective approach. This approach will help to facilitate discussions and progress our work.

Finally, regarding the participation of civil society, private sector and academia in the Committee, we have adopted a constructive approach from the beginning of the Committee work. We reiterate that we believe that the participation of multi stakeholders will contribute to the process. We recognize the important role these stakeholders play in this field and we welcome their participation. We have supported their largest possible participation.

We would like to highlight that our country is not against NGO participation. But we cannot give blanket approval to them. The case of some NGOs which are supportive of terrorist organizations is a national security concern for our country. We maintain our views about this issue. There were 218 organizations in the list of relevant stakeholders and we objected to the participation of only one of them. In this respect, in the previous meetings of the Committee, we raised and registered our concerns regarding this issue and adopted a constructive approach for the work of the Committee.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, we would like to reiterate our support to you and your team for a fruitful and successful meeting.

Thank you Mr. Chair.