

Madam Chair, I want reaffirm the United Kingdom's unwavering support for the people of Ukraine and our commitment to Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally-recognised borders. In a clear breach of international law and the UN Charter, President Putin has used his military machine, including disruptive cyber attacks, to invade a free and peaceful neighbour. We condemn this unjustified and unprovoked attack by Russia in the strongest terms.

We are here today to negotiate the first global treaty on cybercrime. This is an historic opportunity for all UN Member States. The UK believes it is in our shared interest to strengthen international cooperation to tackle cybercrime. Our shared aim is to deliver a new treaty which benefits the whole international community. We can only achieve this if all states engage in good faith.

Russia claims it is here to do this. In its national submission it calls for "compliance with the core principles ... of international law", "respect for human rights" and "peaceful settlement of disputes".

Yet, Russia's actions clearly demonstrate it does not respect the rules we make together. It is willing to disregard them, when it believes it is in its national interest. Chair, how can we achieve our shared aim of tackling cybercrime when we cannot trust Russia's words?

The UK is invested in the rules we make, because we stick to them. This is why we want to get them right the first time; and why we seek to discuss issues fully, not rushing to decisions. We support this process, we are ready to engage in good faith and find consensus.

Our support fully extends to you Madam Chair, and we would like to thank you for your work in difficult circumstances to get us here.

Madam Chair, like others here, our citizens, businesses and government face the threat of cybercrime. As many have highlighted, this trend is increasing and has been exacerbated by the pandemic. For example, a ransomware attack against Hackney Council in London caused months of disruption, cost millions of pounds to rectify and denied UK citizens access to vital public services during the pandemic.

The UK has enjoyed huge practical benefit from being part of an effective international agreement on cybercrime for the past twenty years. It has proved to us that agreeing a clear template for actions which a signatory country must take, ensures cooperation is both easier and ultimately more successful.

Our treaty must:

Firstly, have real practical value. A politicised and unimplemented treaty will do nothing to reduce the real-world impact of cybercrime on those who are suffering,

Secondly, be a crime measure – it must focus on the prosecution and investigation of an agreed set of offences. It is not about cyber governance, restricting freedom of expression or regulating the Internet.

Thirdly, strengthen international cooperation in areas such as the collection and sharing of digital evidence, the exchange of information or joint investigations. We note the many excellent suggestions made in the national submissions and look forward to further discussion.

Fourthly, for our treaty to deliver in reality, all countries must be comfortable and confident using its provisions. So it will be imperative to meet our existing commitments to respect for privacy and other human rights.

And finally, we must ensure we develop our treaty through a fair and inclusive process that takes the voices of all Member States into account and draws on the views of the wide range of stakeholders we have accredited to our process. So we are proud our Women in Cyber Fellowship is enabling a small number of Commonwealth African countries to increase their participation in this negotiation.

Diversity and inclusivity are not just a process issue, but influence the content of the treaty itself. Our treaty must:

- be gender inclusive;
- enable a whole of society approach to tackling cybercrime, and
- support all Member States to develop their capabilities.

To conclude, the UK stands ready to work with all Member States who engage in good faith to deliver our treaty. Together we can agree tools which are of real practical value to all signatories, both now and for generations to come.