

**Madam Chair,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

1. I would like to, first of all, thank you Madam Chair, for convening the second session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes.
2. While the role of ICT and digitalization in job creation and general socio-economic development of countries cannot be overemphasized, society is fast becoming prone to cyber-attacks and victims of cybercrime.
3. In view of that, Madam Chair, Ghana welcomes this global effort to draft an international convention to counter the use of ICTs for criminal purposes. An elaborate convention would complement existing national, regional, and international instruments to address the cybersecurity challenges of our time and enhance the safety and security of the cyberspace. Ghana acknowledges existing instruments such as the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime (UNTOC), the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection (the Malabo Convention) and the Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).
4. As part of its contribution to shaping the discussion in the development of the International Convention, Ghana has, on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022, submitted proposals concerning the text of the general provisions of the Convention, provisions on criminalisation and procedural measures and law enforcement.

Madam Chair,

5. Ghana proposes, among other proposals, that the general provisions of the Convention should adopt the use of technology-neutral words to define key terms in order that these terms can stand the test of time. In addition, the general provisions should define the scope of the Convention to include prevention, investigation, and prosecution of the use of ICTs for criminal purposes. The scope of the Convention should also include the collection of evidence, in electronic form, of criminal offences as well as the existence of provisions on freezing, seizure, confiscation and return of proceeds of offences.

Madam Chair,

6. Ghana proposes that, under the general provisions, member states must guarantee the respect of fundamental human rights and freedoms, privacy, and sovereignty of states in line with obligations under existing international, regional, and national instruments.

7. In the same vein Ghana underscores the need for the future Convention to strengthen the investigatory, prosecutorial, and judicial powers and procedures of Criminal Justice Authorities in combatting cybercrime at the national and international levels. Appropriately, Ghana proposes that the Convention should explicitly contain provisions on
  - a. Expedited preservation of stored computer data
  - b. Expedited preservation and partial disclosure of traffic data
  - c. Production orders for computer data
  - d. Search and Seizure for computer data
  - e. Real-time collection of computer traffic data and
  - f. Interception of content data
8. Furthermore, Ghana proposes that adequate conditions and safeguards should be provided for under the future Convention to ensure that these special investigatory powers and procedures are not abused, to ensure the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms, including the right to privacy.
9. In conclusion, Ghana holds the view that the Convention should harmonise national laws on cybercrime, improve investigatory powers and procedures, promote, and enhance international cooperation. The Convention should also make provision for sustainable capacity building measures to enhance domestic capabilities and provide opportunity for sharing of knowledge on good investigative practices and experiences among member states.
10. I thank you for your attention.