

**Statement by the Representative of Japan
at the Second 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 4)**

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Madam Chair,
And dear colleagues,

I thank you, Madam Chair and the Secretariat, for the hard work that you have done to prepare this session. I am happy to see you all again online and in person to discuss this important issue.

In this first intervention, Japan emphasizes that this Committee should draft a universal and practical convention by consensus in order to enhance the ability to prevent cybercrime globally by diminishing safe havens, and to ensure a free, fair, and safe cyberspace.

Our time is limited. If all Member States tried to criminalize all crimes that are punishable domestically, it would be impossible to create a convention in as short as two years that could be ratified by as many countries as possible.

In this respect, Japan reiterates that cyber-dependent crimes should be the main target of the new Convention, while cyber-enabled crimes should be punished only when it is necessary and when there is a broad consensus among Member States to criminalize them. Particularly with regard to the criminalization of acts related to harmful content on the Internet, Member States must not take lightly the importance of protecting freedom of expression.

Japan is also open to discuss not only crimes stipulated in the Convention but as many crimes as possible as the subject of international cooperation, especially when it comes to the

collection of electronic evidence. By doing so, we can avoid a long list of criminalization provisions.

Madam Chair,

If the detailed criminalization provisions limit the number of countries that can conclude the convention, the Ad Hoc Committee will fail to achieve the objective of diminishing safe havens for cybercrime. Japan hopes that, throughout this discussion, all Member States will consider the meaning and ultimate goal of stipulating criminalization provisions in this convention.

Thank you.