Agenda Item 5: General Provisions

Questions 1, 9 and 11

Madam Chair,

My comments pertain to questions 1, 9 and 11, which Singapore views as interrelated.

To ensure Member States share a common understanding as negotiations progress, it is important to agree on key terminologies that will be referenced in the Convention, along with their respective definitions. The different key terminologies currently being used are:

- ‘Cybercrime’ and ‘use of ICTs for criminal purposes’
- ‘Computer systems’ and ‘ICT devices’
- ‘Computer data’ and ‘digital information’

These terminologies should not be used interchangeably. For example, ‘illegal access to a computer system’ and ‘illegal access to ICT devices’ can be interpreted to differ in coverage, if they are not set out and defined clearly.

In the case of Singapore, we understand the term ‘ICT’ to cover a wide spectrum of cyber-related issues beyond the scope of cybercrime.

Singapore is of the view that we should focus our efforts in addressing the challenges posed by crimes which are specific to or dependent on cyberspace, and avoid duplicating efforts which are undertaken by other UN bodies. Usage of terms such as ‘cybercrime’, ‘computer systems’, and ‘computer data’ will sharpen the focus of the Convention and enable a more pragmatic approach to moving the discussion forward.