

1st Statement - Turkish Mission to the UN

Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

New York, 24 February 2022

Distinguished Chair,

From the outset, allow us to express our appreciation and gratitude for your leadership and intensive efforts since the beginning of this process.

We also would like to congratulate Brazil for the election today, and wish the best of luck.

Madame Chair,

We are firmly convinced of the necessity of full international cooperation in countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes. We attach due importance to the Ad Hoc Committee.

We will continue to work with all the Member States towards a positive, productive, sustainable outcome.

We believe that the participation of private sector, civil society and academia can and should contribute to the process. We recognize the dynamic nature of the ICT sector and the important role such stakeholders play in this field.

Having said that, I also have to underscore that the process ought to be strictly Member State driven. The UN is an intergovernmental organization.

In that sense, we believe in the preeminence of the non-objection principle regarding the participation of relevant stakeholders in the Committee as set in the General Assembly decision 75/282.

The concerns and objections of the Member States regarding other stakeholders' participation in the Committee should have been respected during the process.

Thus, proposal of amendment today aiming to reinsert three NGOs objected by Member States caused frustration.

We had expected our legitimate objection to one particular NGO, stemming from national security concerns, would be respected.

And our objection and concerns have been shared in a most transparent manner.

We see a dangerous precedent being set. The tendency of disregarding principles, appropriate mechanisms of the UN and legitimate concerns of Member States, in practice offering blank checks can prove to be a double-edged sword.

We thank those Members of the Committee who respected legitimate objections of Member States.

Turkey believes in the value of consensus, especially in these challenging times.

Yet we want to register, once again, our objection to the participation of one specific entity (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime) in the Ad Hoc Committee.

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I would like to reiterate that Turkey opposes the participation of Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

We kindly request the Secretariat to ensure this intervention be included in the proper way in the records of the Committee, as well as the letter by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, addressed to the Chair of the Committee, dated 20 December 2021.



Vienna, 20 December 2021

Dear Ms. Ambassador, *Chère Amie,*

Turkey attaches utmost importance to the international cooperation in the context of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. We fully support international collaboration in combatting and preventing cybercrime. We expect that the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee, which will be held on 17-28 January 2022 in New York, will provide an important contribution and impetus to this cooperation.

I hope you will recognize the constructive contributions of my country for ensuring the success of the New York session.

On the other hand, in accordance with the operative paragraph 9 of the General Assembly resolution 75/282 entitled “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes”, I would like to register our objection to the participation of the “Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime” in the Ad Hoc Committee.

We consider that some of the actions of this organization are supportive of the “Fetullah Gülen Terrorist Organization (FETO)”.

Turkey recognizes and values the contribution of non-governmental organizations (NGO) to this process. Our objection is limited to those conducting activities which are supportive of the above-mentioned terrorist organization and terrorism in general. Its presence in the meetings of the Committee cannot be considered as a contribution to the international cooperation on combatting and preventing cybercrime.

H.E. Ambassador Ms. Faouzia Boumaiza Mebarki
Permanent Representative of Algeria
to the International Organizations in Vienna
Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to
Elaborate a Comprehensive International
Convention on Countering the Use of
Information and Communications
Technologies for Criminal Purposes

Cc:

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Wolfgang Amadeus Brühlhart,
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the OSCE,
the UN and other International Organizations in Vienna

I therefore kindly request, Your Excellency, to acknowledge the receipt of this letter. I also request that this letter be circulated to all the States that will participate in the New York session and attached to the report of the said session.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN and other International Organizations in Vienna.

Your Excellency, I take this opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest consideration.



Ahmet Muhtar GÜN

Ambassador

Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Turkey to the United Nations Office and
Other International Organizations in Vienna