Thank you, Madame Chair.

For the first question under final provisions, there should be a provision on the interplay of the convention with other treaties, agreements, or arrangements on matters dealt with therein. Further, protocols that may be created should be complementary to the future convention and should be in response to contingencies that may arise due to new technology. A provision on the same could likewise be included in the convention.

On question number 43, the convention could allow for reservations by States Parties as long as these reservations will not limit their obligations as required by the convention and will not be incompatible with other provisions. The fight against criminality should also be balanced with individual rights and liberties, especially those relating to their personal data. The right to data privacy of individuals must be respected so as to prevent the excessive and arbitrary uses of their data, even for some lawful objectives. At the very least, the convention should recognize and implement general data privacy principles that will serve as fundamental guidance to all member states. The reservations must be limited to the minimum standards of data protection and security; it must not be so restrictive as to defeat the purposes of the convention.

On the topic of a dispute settlement mechanism, Article 35 of the UNTOC and Article 66 of the UNCAC could serve as guidance on the crafting of the settlement mechanism under the future convention.
On the last guiding question for the chapter on final provisions, the UNTOC and UNCAC have similar provisions on amendments, which may serve as guidelines for the convention’s procedure on amendments. The Philippines submits that an amendment could be initiated by a State Party through a proposal transmitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations after the expiration of a period, to be determined by the body, after the convention has entered into force.

Finally, Madam Chair, on the question relating to the principles and main elements to be included in the preamble, the convention may include recognition of the importance of respecting the data privacy of individuals, despite lawful objectives to prevent cybercrime. This ensures that individual rights and liberties are not brushed aside, and that minimum safeguards are in place to temper or limit the access, processing, and collection of an individual's data to only what is necessary or relevant to fight cybercrimes.

These general principles notwithstanding, the Philippines awaits until progress has been made on the substantive articles of the convention as matters to be included in the preamble would be dependent on the tenor of the substantive provisions therein.

Thank you, Madame Chair.