Statement by Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before

The Third Session of the Ad hoc Committee to Elaborate a Convention on Countering
the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

Agenda Item 5: Provisions on technical assistance

(29 August-9 September 2022-New York)

Thank you, Madam Chair;

Since this is the first time, I am taking the floor, I’d like to express my gratitude to you for the commendable leadership of the session and also to the secretariat for the laudable work done in preparation of this session.

With your indulgence, we would like to provide our general comments regarding this item. We will respond to the relevant guiding questions in our next deliberation under this agenda item.

Madam Chair;

Taking into account the technological transformations and advanced tools in the field of information and communications technologies which, when fallen into the wrong hands, amount to sophistication in crimes perpetrated, and also considering the gaps among countries in terms of capacities for combating these crimes, cooperation and provisions of the widest measures of assistance among states remain significant.

In this regard, enhancing the abilities and capabilities of states, in particular developing countries, through required and politically neutral technical assistance constitute important elements that could enable an effective fight against the use of ICT for criminal purposes, realize the very purpose of the convention and ensure that obligations are within the capacities of states. Therefore, the convention should include provisions on promoting, facilitating, and providing reliable technical assistance and capacity building, in particular, to the benefit of developing countries. The convention should also promote the exchange of relevant
information, lessons learned, expertise, and knowledge among state parties aimed at the prevention of and effective combat against criminals.

Technical assistance including material support and transfer of technology, and contributions provided through international organizations for this purpose, should also be politically neutral to ensure a genuine fight against the use of ICT for criminal purposes. Noting that the crimes in question are highly dependent on technology either as a means or target, the convention should also promote the use of modern technology by law enforcement to make sure that efforts in this endeavor are commensurate with the sophistication and complexities of tools, materials, and instrumentalities used for commission of the crimes. This requires relevant technical assistance and cooperation among states including in the field of digital forensics.

**Dear colleagues; ladies and gentlemen**

Considering the root causes of crime that, *inter alia*, emanate from underdevelopment, the inextricable nexus between development and fighting crimes and as highlighted in the relevant conventions, assistance, and cooperation in this scourge should also be understood in the wider context of economic development; in this regard the convention should set out provisions on, among others, measures for cooperation in promoting sustainable economic development as relevant to ICT, enhancing financial and material assistance to support the efforts of developing countries in preventing and combating such crimes, strengthening international cooperation and implementation of the convention through economic development.

In a similar vein, a shared future in cyberspace and equal access of all states to information and communications technologies as well as providing a favorable environment for developing countries to use information and communication technologies for development are also key factors that enable the optimal implementation of the convention.

In this respect, the challenges and barriers that hinder the development of Member States, in particular, the Unilateral Coercive Measures, which are flagrant violation of the fundamental principles of international law and principles set forth within the Charter of the United Nations, should be addressed with a view to assisting developing countries, in particular, those affected by such internationally wrongful acts, in achieving the objectives of this Convention.

**Madam Chair;**
It goes without saying that technical assistance and cooperation in the abovementioned areas should be upon request and be based on the self-identified needs and priorities of requesting states, in particular developing countries, and should not be of intrusive nature in domestic affairs of states.

I thank you.