Thank you Chair,

We’d like to offer four points as states consider technical assistance.

First, this chapter should identify at beginning the parameters of what is covered by technical assistance.

We have heard interesting detail, but it’s not clear yet what is the scope for technical assistance. What crimes would be covered under technical assistance? Where are the boundaries? Are there any?

If technical assistance supports all crime types, how do you safeguard from assistance supporting agendas not supported by this convention and outside its scope?

Or technical assistance could identify by each section what is covered – and here in particular whether assistance covers crimes outlined in the convention, or any crime committed using ICTs.

Second, Resources directed at increasing capacity of law enforcement and justice departments should focus on investigation and litigation, but also upholding key rule-of-law principles.

Therefore, included as part of technical assistance, could be protection of data, proper handling of e-evidence to protect victims and privacy rights, and related issues.

During the session on international cooperation, points were raised on the differing levels of capacity that could hinder cooperation. This section could be used to bridge some of these gaps, such as on protection of data.

Third, we agree with calls for broad and inclusive participation in technical assistance. The Secretary General’s Common Agenda calls for a multilateralism that is networked, inclusive and effective. As some states have noted many organizations are already doing the work of technical assistance.

Focusing on a networked and inclusive approach will ensure existing expertise is utilized, and a broad range of perspectives and actors can contribute to effective responses. Technical assistance through the UN occurs primarily in the Global South. There should be extra effort and resources to ensure continued inputs from Global South civil society and stakeholders in this respect.

Towards that, we ask for a specific reference allowing for a role for multi-stakeholders including the private sector and civil society in supporting technical assistance, and we appreciate the many states who have called for this.
Fourth, transparency for the activities covered in this section is necessary from the beginning. Capacity building can include skills training, legal training, or training in new technological tools. Some states have made clear their interest is for new technologies and capabilities. In this sense, technical assistance has real impacts.

It can establish new powers for the state, and, especially with new technologies, can have both potentially positive and negative impacts on citizens and communities.

There should be transparency in what activities take place during implementation and could be addressed through a review mechanism among other options.