

**FAQ**  
**New United Nations Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**

13 September 2022

**Is there a United Nations convention on cybercrime?**

Member States are currently negotiating a new convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. On 26 May 2021, the UN General Assembly (GA) adopted [resolution 75/282](#), according to which a draft convention is to be provided to the GA at its 78<sup>th</sup> session, which will begin in September 2023 and conclude in September 2024.

**Who decided there should be an international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes?**

The GA made this decision on 27 December 2019, through the adoption of [resolution 74/247](#) on “Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes”. This resolution launched the process towards a new international convention on the use of ICTs for criminal purposes, and establishing an [Ad Hoc Committee](#) to elaborate a “comprehensive international convention”.

**Is there already an international convention on the use of ICTs for criminal purposes/cybercrime?**

There are a number of conventions of varying scope that address the issue of the use of ICTs for criminal purposes/cybercrime, but there currently is no UN legal instrument on this subject.

**What is the relationship with existing international instruments?**

According to GA [resolution 75/282](#), the process towards the UN convention shall take into account existing international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. This also includes the outcomes of the [open-ended intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study on Cybercrime](#), a subsidiary body of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

**How are the negotiations conducted?**

Negotiations take place during the sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee according to the roadmap and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee, which was adopted at its first session in March 2022. You will find the roadmap, the schedule of sessions and the agenda items to be covered during each session in Annex II to the [Report on the first session](#).

**Are only governments involved in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee?**

GA [resolution 75/282](#) encourages the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to solicit inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders such as interested intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, as well as other non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the private sector. For more information about the engagement of multi-stakeholders visit the [webpage](#) of the Ad Hoc Committee.

### **What has the Ad Hoc Committee done so far?**

The Ad Hoc Committee convened a three-day organizational session in May 2021 in New York, where it elected the Officers of the Committee and discussed an outline and modalities for further activities. The Committee also held informal consultations under the leadership of its Chair to facilitate the fulfilment of its mandates.

On 24 February 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee held an [organizational session](#) in New York, to resolve organizational matters (deciding on the participation of multi-stakeholders, in accordance with paragraph 9 of GA resolution 75/282 and electing two Vice-Chairs of the Bureau of the Ad Hoc Committee).

The [first session](#) was held in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2022. The Committee conducted a preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention. It decided on the [structure of the convention](#), agreed on the [road map and mode of work](#) for the Ad Hoc Committee including the organizational arrangements for the intersessional consultations with multi-stakeholders.

In preparation for the second session of the Committee, on 24 and 25 March 2022 the Chair hosted [intersessional consultations](#) in Vienna to solicit inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders.

The [second session](#) of the Ad Hoc Committee was held in Vienna from 30 May to 10 June 2022. The Committee discussed general provisions, provisions on criminalization, and provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement.

In preparation for the third session of the Committee, the Chair hosted the [second intersessional consultations](#) with multi-stakeholders on 13 and 14 June 2022 in Vienna.

The [third session](#) of the Committee was held from 29 August to 9 September 2022 in New York. The Committee discussed provisions on international cooperation, technical assistance, preventive measures, and the mechanism of implementation, the final provisions and the preamble of a future convention.

According to the road map, the Chair convened the [third intersessional consultations](#) with multi-stakeholders on 3 and 4 November 2022 in Vienna.

### **What happens next?**

According to the terms of resolution 75/282, the Committee will convene at least six negotiating sessions, each lasting 10 days, and a concluding session in New York to adopt a draft convention and provide it to the General Assembly at its 78<sup>th</sup> session.

### **What is the role of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)?**

UNODC serves as Secretariat to the Ad Hoc Committee, including for the sessions in Vienna and New York. For more information visit the [homepage](#) of the Committee.

UNODC also has a Global Programme on Cybercrime, mandated to assist Member States in their struggle against cyber-related crimes through capacity-building and technical assistance. For more information: [UNODC Global Programme on Cybercrime](#).

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