



G-77 and China statement during the Expert Group Meeting to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Problem of Cybercrime, from 27-29 July 2020 delivered by Ms. Safa Shabat, Permanent Mission of Palestine

Agenda item 2: International Cooperation and item 3: Prevention

Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

1. It's my pleasure to speak on behalf of the Group of 77 and China on the occasion of the sixth session of the Open-ended Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime.

2. The Group of 77 and China reiterates its serious concern about cybercrime and further recognizes that preventing and combatting cybercrime effectively will contribute to the building of a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative cyber space, which is a strong driving force for social and economic development, as well as improvement of individual wellbeing.

3. The Group welcomes the opportunity for governmental experts to exchange views on international cooperation and prevention to combat cybercrime through this Experts Group meeting.

4. The Group supports the essential role of the United Nations in the fight against cybercrime and reiterates its support for the adoption of relevant General Assembly resolutions, and along these lines, appreciates the work of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime. The Group takes note of the outcome of its previous meetings, including the preliminary recommendations put forward and calls upon Member States to continue supporting the Expert Group with the focus on the completion of its work in line with its 2018-2021 work plan.

5. The Group recognizes the complex nature of cybercrime and will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UN GA Resolution 74/247 on elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations, taking into full consideration existing national, regional and international instruments and efforts at the national, regional and international levels on combating the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes, in particular the work and outcomes of the Open Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to conduct a comprehensive study on cybercrime". The Group supports the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries.

6. The Group recognizes that international cooperation is important for gathering and sharing electronic evidence in the context of cross-border investigations and the need for fast and effective responses to requests for mutual legal assistance related to preserving and

obtaining electronic evidence. The Group also emphasizes that the principles of sovereignty and reciprocity should be respected in the process.

7. The Group likewise encourages Member States to continue to include effective prevention measures at the national and international levels and focus on proactive activities such as raising awareness about the risks of cybercrime and the likelihood of prosecution and punishment for offenders and efforts to prevent further crime by identifying and disrupting ongoing illicit online activities.

8. The Group regrets that due to the existence of “digital gap”, some developing countries lack the capacity to prevent, detect and combat cybercrime, and are more vulnerable in the face of cybercrime challenges. The Group also strongly encourages UNODC to continue providing technical assistance, upon request, to prevent and counter cybercrime.

9. The Group of 77 and China likewise encourages UNODC to further provide capacity-building and training programs in combating cybercrime to national governmental experts, to strengthen capacities to detect and investigate cybercrime. Such capacity-building should address the needs of developing countries, focus on the vulnerabilities of each country in order to provide tailor-made technical assistance and promote the exchange of the most up-to-date knowledge in the best interests of the practitioners and stake holders.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.