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German Statement for UN IEG (27.-29.7.2020)

Germany would like to thank the Chair and the Secretary for their efforts in preparing this meeting in the current situation.

As also recognized in the Draft Study, cybercrime is often not limited to one country but transnational in nature. Perpetrators, victims and evidence of the crime might often be located in different countries. Germany therefore strongly supports international efforts to improving and making best use of the tools available to fight cybercrime.

This IEG does not only bring together a lot of expertise but has also yielded results, including with regard to legislative reforms based on existing international standards and in particular in terms of capacity building.

Germany would like to take this opportunity to highlight once again the importance of capacity building and of exchanging best practices.

For an effective fight against cybercrime, international police cooperation and mutual legal assistance in criminal matters are essential.

The EU will present its position on this later. Also in our capacity as the EU presidency I would like to express our full support on this now.

At the UN level, the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime represents the most important tools of the international community for fighting transnational organized crime, including cybercrime.

More specifically on cybercrime: there is already a comprehensive multilateral legal framework that allows for increasing international capacity and cooperation, namely the Budapest Convention

Germany ratified the Budapest Convention in 2009. It is a valuable tool for effective international cooperation, with 65 parties so far, representing all continents.

These states have thus committed themselves to combating cybercrime, to establishing the various offences in national legislation and to cooperate with each other in investigations. In particular, the Budapest Convention allows digital data to be frozen as a matter of urgency and facilitates the preservation of digital evidence through an international network of contact points operating 24/7. Through this tool, and many others, it extends and promotes the implementation of international mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Germany also supports the working group responsible for drafting a second additional protocol to the Budapest Convention.

Many UN countries have started working on or have gone through complex reforms of national cybercrime legislation. We should continue to promote practical efforts to support this process and not undermine it or discourage nations from continued work on legislation. Good progress is being made.

Germany fully supports a multilateral system that delivers results in tackling today's and tomorrow's global challenges, and will continue to engage constructively.