



international relations & cooperation

Department:
International Relations and Cooperation
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SIXTH SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE STUDY OF CYBERCRIME, 27 - 29 JULY 2020 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SOUTH AFRICA'S RECOMMENDATIONS ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Chairperson

My delegation has taken note of the comments of the panellists under this item.

The challenges presented by the lack of harmonization of criminalization provisions, the lacuna in procedural powers for law-enforcement and the issue of determining jurisdiction for the purposes of securing electronic evidence calls for member states to recommit to achieving effective and strengthened regional and international cooperation to combat cybercrime under the auspices of the United Nations.

South Africa uses both the formal and informal forms of cooperation. Although the formal form of cooperation is necessary for obtaining evidence, it is often time consuming especially in relation to preserving and obtaining electronic evidence. Therefore, informal channels and other expedited means of cooperation become more successful.

Equally, South Africa finds that, although the 24/7 networks are effective, some of the major challenges is the fact that a number of countries are not members of the networks, and lack a common approach in handling cybercrime issues. Cryptocurrencies also presents a huge challenge in investigating and prosecuting the illicit flow relating to the proceeds of crime.

South Africa supports the development and implementation of a truly international instrument on cyber matters under the UN binding on all Member States for enhanced international cooperation and capacity building in combating cybercrime.

At a regional level, South Africa continues to work closely with AFRIPOL to curb cybercrime offences. We are optimistic that the AU would develop ways for better and closer cooperation among African States and stakeholders to address this scourge.

I thank you Mr Chair.