

Cybercrime Stakeholder Engagement Initiative

Regional Consultation for the Americas

The third and final regional consultation on cybercrime was held on 18 January from 4 to 5.30 pm CET and saw the participation of over 71 stakeholders from the region. The high number of participants and the quality of interventions was made possible thanks to the support of interpreters.

THE *Alliance*
OF NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE

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Challenges and recommendations:

- It is important to recognize the rise in cybercrime rates and their disproportionate impact on disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups, especially around human rights protection of journalists, migrants, victims of trafficking, gender perspectives, and children.
- An emphasis on nuanced strategies to address the intricate challenges posed by cybercriminal activities was called for.
- It is important to prevent domestic political issues from escalating and impacting multilateralism as much as possible.
- There was a clear consensus on the essential nature of cross-border cooperation to counter the transnational aspects of cybercrime. Currently there is a lack of standardized legislation across the Americas.
- Insights were shared by the participants on the evolving role of social media and messaging applications in facilitating cybercrimes, particularly on exploitation and financial fraud. These have an influential role in exposing people' vulnerabilities and shaping public opinion through deceptive campaigns.
- An emphasis was put on the need for the new convention to be adaptable to technological advancements. Similar to other regions, a need for greater capacity building was recognized.
- It is important to highlight existing safeguards to prevent overcriminalization, as well as initiatives to raise awareness on the intersections of technology with human trafficking.
- Cybercrime legislation cannot impede with existing regulations on data protection thus becoming a tool to undermine individual privacy rights in the cyberspace.
- There was a consensus on the necessity of collaborative efforts across different sectors of society.