

Delegation of the Republic of Armenia
31st Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal
Justice

Vienna, 16-20 May 2022

**Statement under Item 5: Thematic discussion on strengthening the
use of digital evidence in criminal justice and countering cybercrime**

Mr. Chair,

I would like to start by thanking the secretariat for organizing this thematic discussion on such a pertinent theme and for preparing the Guide for the thematic discussion, with the extensive background information, current state of affairs and challenges. We would also like to express our gratitude to the panelists for their valuable presentations and insights.

Mr. Chair,

Electronic or digital evidence presents unique opportunities for law enforcement authorities to use technologies to more effectively combat crime, including transnational organized crime, as the current internet based services allow us to preserve the electronic evidence and use them in criminal justice proceedings on an almost equal footing with the real life evidence.

Therefore, the primary task should be the development or strengthening of national capacities to collect, preserve, analyze the digital evidence for the prosecution of crimes. Public-private cooperation and multi stakeholder engagement are important elements in this regard.

Here we would like to highlight the role of UNODC, which through technical assistance could bring in the knowledge and the best practices needed to update the legal and structural frameworks of states in this respect.

Mr. Chairman,

The lack of universally agreed norms and regulations with regard to the handling of electronic evidence, especially when it comes to cases related to cross border crime, leads to the legal fragmentation, which is exploited by

criminals, creates inconsistencies in the exercise of procedural powers and hampers investigation efforts.

Therefore, we see the importance of the ongoing work of the UN Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, which we hope will help overcome such fragmentation and will produce universally acceptable norms and regulations to combat not only cybercrime but other forms of crime, by securing electronic evidence across borders.

We are sure that the existing regional and international instruments in this field, such as the Budapest Convention, will provide valuable contributions to the substantive outcome of the Committee's work as they have provided good bases for strengthening our national efforts in countering cybercrime.

Mr. Chairman,

Armenia attaches particular importance to the issue of the use of electronic or digital evidence in relation to armed conflicts. Digital evidence collected from battlefields and conflict areas, especially related to violations of international humanitarian law, could be vital for the prosecution of perpetrators of such crimes.

Considering that in most such cases we deal with grave crimes and violations of international norms, we believe that this issue should remain in the focus of our attention.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we rely on improving our international systems and mechanisms to enforce the proper investigation and prosecution of crimes by states in default of their obligations. And we believe that this thematic discussion will help our efforts.

Thank you Mr. Chair.