



PERMANENT MISSION OF MALTA  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY  
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE,  
THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

## Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Statement by H.E. Ambassador Meli-Daudey  
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Malta in Vienna

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*[CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY]*

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Representatives of Civil Society,

Mr Chair,

Allow me to congratulate you on your nomination and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Malta fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to make a few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chair,

The Russian Federation's unprovoked military aggression against Ukraine enters its 82<sup>nd</sup> day. This unjustified aggression is a blatant violation of international law, undermining the international security, and the democratic values enshrined in the UN Charter. We condemn this aggression and reiterate our call on Russia to cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops from the territory of Ukraine in respect of its territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence. Malta stands firm in its unwavering solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

Mr. Chair,



Malta welcomes the timely discussion on developing the use of digital evidence in the prevention, enforcement and judicial prosecution of cyber-related crimes. Malta has worked ardently to build the capacity of law enforcement and criminal justice actors, in order to enhance investigation techniques and technologies. The Malta Police Force continues to engage members of the community in successful awareness campaigns regarding cybercrime and online safety, including the EU co-funded *Be Smart Online (BSO) Campaign*. We have invested heavily in terms of equipment for the digital forensic section, as well as training exercises. Moreover, the Ministry for Justice has launched the first-ever Digital Justice Strategy, through the assistance of Committee on the Efficiency of the Judiciary (CEPEJ) of the Council of Europe.

Mr. Chair,

Another major obstacle to countering cybercrime is the lack of physical and geographic limitations to cyber-activity, and the diverging legal frameworks adopted across varying jurisdictions. The only means by which we can counter the global threat of cybercrime is through the harmonization, consolidation and thusly, the strengthening of international efforts to combat cross-border criminal activity. In this respect, I wish to reassert Malta's commitment to enhance international cooperation to combat cybercrime, as per the *2021 Kyoto Declaration*. Malta supports the ongoing process of the *Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime*, which will build on existing treaties, including the *2001 Budapest Convention*. The intersessional consultations with multi-stakeholders also represent a crucial exercise in fostering public-private partnerships which will help us to develop the most effective strategies in countering cybercrime.

Mr. Chair,



As we move forward in the negotiation of a new international convention, we must remember the lessons learned, particularly since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Recent data indicates that factors including age and gender, represent an increased vulnerability to this nature of criminal activity. Children are more susceptible to abuse over the internet. Women and girls are more likely to become victims of cybercrime, especially online harassment, sexual abuse and trafficking for different types of exploitation. Security vacuums created by conflict zone, such as in Afghanistan and Ukraine, have led to a significant increase in gender-related criminal activity.

Allow me to reassert Malta's commitment to combat rising trends related to Gender-Based Violence. Recent developments have lead my Government to undertake concerted efforts to address gaps within Malta's Criminal Code. This is a first step. A small step. But we intend to do more. In this regard, I am pleased to invite you to join us at our side-event regarding the causes and consequences of GBV and its most extreme form: Femicide, which will be held today/tomorrow at 13:10hrs.

Thank you.