

Organization of work for the seventh session of the open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study on the problem of cybercrime (6 – 8 April 2021) in view of COVID-19 restrictions

Status date: 1 April 2021 v2

Hybrid Meeting Format

The [seventh session of the Open-ended intergovernmental expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime](#) (Expert Group) will be held in Vienna from 6 to 8 April 2021, as approved by the extended Bureau of the Expert Group. Due to the continued impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the session cannot be held in its usual in-person format and a hybrid format was proposed.

In line with the mitigation measures taken by the Austrian authorities to contain the spread of the pandemic, in-person meetings should only be held if necessary to maintain official activities that cannot be postponed or held virtually. In case physical presence in a meeting is planned, a minimum of 2-meter distance between participants in the meeting room and other preventive and health measures, such as the use of FFP2 masks, will have to be strictly adhered to.

To enable the Expert Group to carry out its work in line with the above measures, the hybrid format for the session, as explained below, **was approved by the extended Bureau and will be brought to the attention of the Expert Group on the first day of its meeting.**

1. Physical presence and remote connections

The conference room in the Vienna International Centre (VIC) available for the Expert Group on 6 – 8 April 2021 is the Plenary Room/M-Building, which can accommodate 176 tables/seats (without advisor seats), whilst adhering to the required 2-meter distance between all seats.

The attendance record of the last 3 sessions of the Expert Group shows that a maximum of 125 delegations designated one or several delegates to participate in the sessions¹. This means that the available room size is adequate to provide each Member State and Observer delegation with the opportunity to decide, **on a voluntary basis**, to designate a maximum of **1 delegate per delegation to be physically present at the session.**

All other delegates will be connected remotely through the online interpretation platform Interprefy. **Up to 8 links/connections² will be available to each Member State delegation and up to 5 links/connections to each observer delegation.** All links have speaking and listening functions.

2. Meeting times

As Member States will recall, the hybrid format entails a reduction of each meeting from 3 to 2 hours. The first meetings each day will be held from 12:00 to 14:00 hrs. and the second meeting

¹ 2018: 115 delegation; 2019: 125 delegations; 2020 (virtual): 109 delegations.

² Initially 4 links were allocated but based on the updated registration statistics up to 8 links could be made available per Member State delegation.

from 16:00 to 18:00 hrs., local Vienna time. This scheduling takes into account participants from other time zones.

3. Documentation

Pre-session documents will be issued electronically. In-session documents (i.e. the parts of the report for adoption) will also be made available electronically and in hard copy for those delegates who would be physically present. The revised organizational arrangements and proposed schedule of work of the session will be reflected in the report of the seventh session of the Expert Group and will be posted on the [webpage of the Expert Group on Cybercrime](#).

4. Format of the report

As endorsed by the extended Bureau on 31 March, the report of the seventh meeting of the expert group will be a procedural report and will not include a Chair's summary of deliberations. It will have an annex that will contain the conclusions and recommendations. The expert group itself will decide how to handle the conclusions and recommendations that do not enjoy consensus, e.g. whether/how they will be submitted to the CCPCJ.

5. Method of work

The hybrid format will enable the Expert Group to adopt the outcome of the session as described in the [agenda](#).

Also as endorsed by the extended Bureau, to facilitate discussions under item 2, the Secretariat will display the list of all recommendations on the screen and these will be considered in numerical order. For the recommendations that do not enjoy consensus, the Chair will invite delegations to work informally during the meeting breaks to try to achieve consensus, and will invite them to provide follow-up information at the next formal meeting segment.

Vice-Chairs and delegations in general are invited to assist in facilitating these informal consultations. As soon as discussions on item 2 are exhausted, the expert group will turn its attention to item 3.

6. Statements

As endorsed by the extended Bureau, owing to time constraints, **no general statements** will be made during the session, so that the expert group can begin deliberating agenda item 2 of the seventh meeting of the expert group right away. Instead, delegates are invited to send their general statements in written format to the secretariat (email: unodc-egmcybercrimestudy@un.org). The secretariat will publish such statements on the public website of the session, unless instructed otherwise in writing by concerned delegations.

Other statements made under the substantive agenda items of the session will be subject to a maximum duration of **3 minutes**.

Annex

Proposed organization of work

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Title or description</i>
Tuesday, 6 April 2021	12 noon–2 p.m.	1 (a)	Opening of the meeting
		1 (b)	Adoption of the agenda
		2	Consideration of all preliminary conclusions and recommendations generated at the fourth, fifth and sixth meetings of the Expert Group held in 2018, 2019 and 2020 and production of conclusions and recommendations for submission to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice
	4–6 p.m.	2	Consideration of all preliminary conclusions and recommendations (...) (<i>continued</i>)
Wednesday, 7 April 2021	12 noon–2 p.m.	2	Consideration of all preliminary conclusions and recommendations (...) (<i>continued</i>)
	4–6 p.m.	2	Consideration of all preliminary conclusions and recommendations (...) (<i>continued</i>)
Thursday, 8 April 2021	12 noon–2 p.m.	3	Discussion of future work of the Expert Group
	4–6 p.m.	3	Discussion of future work of the Expert Group (<i>continued</i>)
		4	Other matters
		5	Adoption of the report
