

Inter-Governmental Experts Group meeting on cyber crime

(6-8 April 2021)

Statement by Indian delegation on the Item-3- “Future Work of the Group”

Mr. Chair,

I would be brief in my statement on the future work of this group.

Being an active participant in the IEG discussions so far, my delegation has benefited out of the deliberations by various experts in the last four years on cyber crime. UNODC would continue to play a critical role in crime prevention including cybercrime.

This group acts as a Forum under the UN auspices and gives huge opportunities for frank exchange and sharing of views on various topics, best practices, etc.

The Group has met several times since the adoption of 2018-2021 Work plan and compiled various conclusions and recommendations that are diverse in their views and underline the broad spectrum of important work the Expert Group has done.

It is important to preserve the good work that the Expert Group has done over the years and it acts as reference paper for any future work of the Expert Group in either in its existing form or under different mandate related to cyber crime.

There is value in the IEG process.

By quoting a UN resolution on the ad hoc committee to elaborate a convention, a few delegates mentioned about duplication of work on cybercrime. In my delegations view, the IEG rather help the ad hoc committee for a better understanding of issues related to cyber crime since such issues would have been discussed at the IEG and enable a level playing field during the elaboration process. We should also be mindful that concluding a treaty would take a reasonable time.

Until the period the convention/treaty is concluded there is merit in a continued discussion and engagement among member states, to be

mandated by the UN/CCPCJ. The study by the group would benefit the work of the ad hoc committee.

We may note that the level of sophistication in the act of crime using the ICT, broadly, cybercrime has increased and continue to find new ways. A continued study on this is critical and important for all us.

As mandated by CCPCJ, the current group has studied comprehensively of the problem of cybercrime, covering only 6 topics of contemporary relevance since 2018, namely, legislation and frameworks, criminalization, law enforcement and investigations, electronic evidence and criminal justice, international cooperation, and prevention. The mentioned topics are not an exhaustive list. The group has not focused on some key cybercrime issues which have evolved over the period like, use of new and emerging cyber technologies for committing crimes linked to crypto-currencies and Internet of Things, etc, organized cyber crime, cooperation work related to mutual legal assistance treaty in dealing with cyber crimes, best practices to tackle them, and many more.

Secondly, the working methodology of the IEG may be improved in the extended IEG to make it more contributory, democratic and consensus based. Four year period may be longer which can be curtailed to a shorter period with more time for discussions and exchange of views instead of just making statements.

This group in a way also acts as confidence building measure among member states.

With this, my delegation wishes for 'extension of IEG' beyond 2021 with different topics and mandate in cyber crime.

Thank you.