

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Statement

By

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran

Before

**The Seventh Session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to
Conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Problem of Cybercrime**

(April 8, 2021)

Mr. Chair,

At the beginning, I would like to once again commend you for your able leadership and also the Secretariat for their dedicated efforts in convening this important meeting. The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the works of IEG and for this reason has actively engaged in its works with a view to contributing to the fight against cybercrime. The IEG played an important role in exchanging views among Member States and sharing good practices on preventing and combating cybercrime.

Mr. Chair,

As regards the future work of IEG, we would like to recall that in accordance with resolution 65/230, the IEG was entrusted with the task of conducting a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime with a view to examining options to strengthen existing and to propose new national and international legal or other responses to cybercrime. However, in 2020, the General Assembly underlined the importance of developing an international convention on cybercrime by adopting resolution 74/247 pursuant to which an Ad hoc Committee has been mandated to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes. In fact, the General

Assembly has made the decision to respond to the pressing challenge of cybercrime through elaboration of an international convention. Therefore, without prejudice to the valuable work of IEG, there is no need for renewal of the IEG's mandate since the General Assembly has decided on this matter.

Furthermore, considering that the IEG's mission has been accomplished and its mandate has been fulfilled in accordance with resolution A/RES/65/230 and other relevant resolutions and documents, from now on, the main goal should be to support the process of and focus on elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications for criminal purposes. To this end, we should avoid the duplication of work; hence renewal of the mandate of IEG could not be an option. As such, we should focus on facilitating and expediting the work of the Ad hoc Committee so as to provide a sound context for bolstering Member States' efforts as well as international cooperation in fighting cybercrime.

In addition, we should also take into account the budgetary constraints and that the UN and UNODC have faced with problem of limited resources which makes it difficult to allocate enough budgets to IEG and the Ad hoc Committee at the same time.

Needless to mention that the accomplishment of work of IEG does not mean the end of discussion on cybercrime and exchange of information or provisions of technical assistance to countries, in particular for developing countries which is and should be provided by UNODC in accordance with relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the ECOSOC, the CCPCJ and other related forums within the United Nations.

At the end, we would like to reiterate the essential role of an international comprehensive convention in promoting and strengthening the fight against cybercrime and in this respect we invite Member States to support the work of the Ad hoc Committee so as to expedite the process of elaboration of the convention and to send an unambiguous signal to criminals all over the world regarding the unwavering determination of the international community in collectively responding to cybercrime and denying criminals of any safe haven.

Thank you Mr. Chair.