

**Statement of the Republic of Poland at the
Seventh session of the Open-ended intergovernmental expert group
to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime
Agenda Item 3 - Discussion of future work of the Expert Group
Vienna, 6-8 April 2021**

Thank you Mr. Chair. Let me first appreciate and thank you for your smart stewardship in chairing this session. It is not an easy task and you are doing a great job.

Mr. Chair,

We think that the most important thing now is not to lose what has been achieved and discussed so far since 2018. These three days of our meeting have clearly shown that the issue has not been exhausted. We are pleased that a significant part of all 205 recommendations presented during discussions over few years was accepted by consensus. However, among those, which were not agreed upon yet, there are many that enjoy wide support. There was not enough time to discuss them thoroughly, but they bear a potential to become eventually consensual. It demonstrates clearly that we need a proper framework to keep them accessible and work on them at an expert level.

The IEG has been a unique platform for experts and practitioners to exchange experience, good practices, but also information on how to face challenges of cybercrime. Although the acquis worked out by the IEG so far is significant, not everything has been done. There is a need for a framework to maintain further work at an expert level without a break.

Whether it will be an extension of the mandate of the existing IEG or providing a recommendation for creating a new format of an expert group is secondary. We see great merit in keeping an open forum for practitioners to maintain and further the work done so far. Otherwise, we risk wasting a lot of work undertaken.

Future is not predictable, but we can be sure, that the phenomenon of cybercrime will exist, so the international community will need a proper forum to address this issue. Next month, Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes will hold its organizational meeting marking the start of a new process devoted to curbing cybercrime. We believe that Ad Hoc Committee's work on a legislative instrument would greatly benefit from continuous substantive support from an expert forum enabling timely exchange of information on topical issues in the field of cybercrime. These processes by no means should be perceived as competitive or duplicative, but rather complementary and mutually reinforcing.