



**STATEMENT BY THE G-77 AND CHINA AT THE FIFTH SESSION
OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE TO ELABORATE A COMPREHENSIVE
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON COUNTERING THE USE OF
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR
CRIMINAL PURPOSES,
DELIVERED BY H.E. MR. MOHAMED HAMDY MOHAMED ELMOLLA
VIENNA, 21 APRIL 2023**

Madame Chair and Distinguished Delegates,

1. This is the first time that the Group G77 and China is taking the floor during the deliberations of this Ad Hoc Committee. We would like to commend the hard work of the Chair, Ambassador Faouzia Mebarki of Algeria, in leading the work of this Committee and supported so ably by the Officers of the Committee, the Secretariat and Co-Facilitators.
2. The Group appreciates the efforts by the Chair in preparing the Consolidated Negotiating Documents which provide a good foundation for further discussions by the Ad Hoc Committee. In this regard, the Group would like to highlight the importance of having quality and timely translations into all UN official languages.
3. The Group will continue to actively participate in the implementation of UNGA Resolution 74/247 on elaboration of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communication technologies for criminal purposes within the framework of the United Nations. We support the elaboration of a convention that takes into account, inter alia, the concerns and interests of all Member States, in particular developing countries, to achieve a comprehensive, technologically neutral Convention, ensuring fullest possible international cooperation to facilitate seamless exchange of information and evidence to counter crimes.
4. The Group stresses the importance of international cooperation and technical assistance, as central pillars of the envisaged Convention to address the challenges and meet the needs of developing countries in countering the scourge of these crimes, and therefore supports the inclusion of provisions that seeks to facilitate and strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance including transfer of technology, where applicable and upon request by Member States, to build the capacity of their national authorities.
5. The Group would like to underscore the importance of addressing the causes and factors that make different segments of society more vulnerable to these crimes, and therefore the Group is of the firm view that the envisaged Convention should address these vulnerabilities by also taking into account the socio-economic and technological

development of developing countries and including provisions to support their efforts to effectively prevent and be protected from the different criminal manifestations related to our discussions.

Madame Chair,

6. The Group also emphasizes the relevant role that the envisaged Convention can play to strengthen the prevention, investigatory, prosecutorial and judicial powers of the functionaries of the criminal justice system in combating these crimes at the national, regional, and international levels.

7. The Group takes this opportunity to thank all the co-facilitators and their teams for their hard work. In this regard, the Group looks forward to seeing the concerns raised thus far by its Member States included in the zero draft of the envisaged Convention as well as its early circulation in order to give ample time to study the document ahead of the crucial sixth session in New York in August and sincerely hopes that the process will continue to be transparent and inclusive.

8. Finally, the Group affirms its commitment to engage constructively and in good faith with all delegations in the sixth session of the Ad Hoc Committee. We remain optimistic that we will be able to agree on a draft convention to be submitted to the General Assembly at its 78th session.

Thank you.