



General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 March 2022

Original: English

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes on its first session

I. Opening of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes held its first session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 11 March 2022. During the session, the Ad Hoc Committee held 19 meetings.
2. The session was opened by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, Faouzia Boumaiza Mebarki (Algeria), who delivered opening remarks. A representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime also made opening remarks.

B. Attendance

3. The session was attended by representatives of 150 States Members of the United Nations. Also attending were observers for non-member States, representatives of entities of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations.
4. A list of registered participants was made available on the web page of the Ad Hoc Committee.¹

C. Documentation

5. A list of the documents before the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session was also made available on the web page of the Committee.

¹ www.unodc.org/unodc/en/cybercrime/ad_hoc_committee/ahc-first-session.html.



II. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

6. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the provisional agenda as contained in document [A/AC.291/3/Rev.1](#). The agenda was as follows:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. General debate.
4. Objectives and scope of the convention.
5. Structure of the convention.
6. Preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention.
7. Discussion and decision-making on the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee during subsequent sessions and intersessional periods.
8. Any other business.
9. Adoption of the report.
10. Closure of the session.

7. At the same meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee approved the organization of work for the first session, as contained in conference room paper A/AC.291/CRP.4/Rev.1.

III. General debate

8. At its 1st to 5th meetings, on 28 February and 1 and 2 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee considered agenda item 3, entitled “General debate”. Statements were made in person or online.

9. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Islamic Republic of Iran, Russian Federation, India, Colombia, United States of America, Ecuador, China, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Qatar, Singapore, Czechia, New Zealand, Egypt, Canada, Cuba, Thailand, Costa Rica, Brazil, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Nicaragua, Ghana, Syrian Arab Republic, Belarus, Liechtenstein, Republic of Korea, Namibia, Japan, Guyana, Sri Lanka, Hungary, Netherlands, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Chile, Israel, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Turkey, Malaysia, Italy, Cambodia, Denmark, Norway, Panama, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Peru, Portugal, Kuwait, Australia, Paraguay, Honduras, Burkina Faso, Armenia, Philippines, Germany, Romania, Poland, Sweden, France, Viet Nam, Eritrea, Slovenia, Uruguay, Austria, Trinidad and Tobago, Lithuania, Iceland, Latvia, Mexico, Algeria, Pakistan, Finland, Jordan, Argentina, Estonia, Cameroon and Azerbaijan.

10. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

11. The representative of the Holy See made a statement in its capacity as a non-member observer State.

12. Statements were also made by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), Inter-Parliamentary Union and International Chamber of Commerce.

13. Further statements were made by representatives of the following organizations: Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Privacy International, Derechos Digitales, Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, Electronic Frontier Foundation, United Nations Diplomatic Committee of Experts in International Law, Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association,

Article 19 – International Centre against Censorship, Red Dot Foundation Global, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams, Inc., Access Now, Human Rights Watch and Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi.

IV. Objectives and scope of the convention

14. At its 5th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 17th and 18th meetings, on 2, 3, 4 and 10 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee considered agenda item 4, entitled “Objectives and scope of the convention”.

15. For its consideration of item 4, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following documentation:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing a compilation of views submitted by Member States on the scope, objectives and structure (elements) of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes (A/AC.291/4);

(b) Conference room paper containing proposals on the objectives and scope of the comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes (A/AC.291/CRP.8).

16. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Egypt, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Colombia, Japan, Morocco, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Philippines, Turkey, China, Brazil, Netherlands, Norway, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Italy, Nicaragua, Portugal, France, Germany, South Africa, Israel, Argentina, Serbia, Australia, Jordan, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Poland, Costa Rica, Canada, Pakistan, Czechia, Cuba, Russian Federation, Thailand, Malaysia, United States, Ghana, Slovenia, India, Austria, Timor-Leste, Mali, Uruguay, Mexico, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Burundi, Slovakia, Viet Nam, Honduras, Nigeria and Algeria.

17. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

18. The representative of the Holy See made a statement in its capacity as a non-member observer State.

19. Statements were made by representatives of the following intergovernmental organizations: INTERPOL and International Chamber of Commerce.

20. Statements were also made by representatives of the following organizations: Afrique Espérance, Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of Electronic Frontier Foundation), Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, Association pour l'intégration et le développement durable au Burundi, Cyberlaw University, Access Now and Libera Università “Maria SS. Assunta”.

21. The Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views extensively on the objectives and scope of the convention, on the basis of the Chair's proposals, contained in A/AC.291/CRP.8. The Chair decided that, after the first session, she would further revise her proposals, which would remain indicative in nature, taking into consideration the deliberations at the session, and make it available to the Ad Hoc Committee before its second session, on the website of the Committee.

V. Structure of the convention

22. At its 7th meeting, on 3 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee agreed to the Chair's proposal to consider agenda item 5, entitled “Structure of the convention”, and considered the item.

23. For its consideration of item 5, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it the following:

(a) Note by the Secretariat containing a compilation of views submitted by Member States on the scope, objectives and structure (elements) of a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes ([A/AC.291/4](#));

(b) Conference room paper containing a proposal on the structure of the comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes (A/AC.291/CRP.7).

24. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Mexico, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Argentina, Brazil, United Republic of Tanzania, Israel, Colombia, Switzerland, Estonia, China, Dominican Republic, Eritrea, Syrian Arab Republic, Norway, Italy, South Africa, Ghana, Canada, Pakistan, Islamic Republic of Iran, United Kingdom, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Japan, Germany, Jordan, Egypt, Honduras, Australia, United States, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Luxembourg, Cuba, Morocco, New Zealand, France, Serbia, Belarus, Singapore and India.

25. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

26. A statement was made by the representative of the following intergovernmental organization: INTERPOL.

27. A statement was made by the representative of the following non-governmental organization: Foundation for International Blockchain and Real Estate Expertise.

28. The Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views on the structure of the future convention and adopted the Chair's proposal, contained in annex I to the present report.

VI. Preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention

29. At its 10th, 11th and 12th meetings, on 4 and 7 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee considered agenda item 6, entitled "Preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention".

30. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: United Kingdom, Egypt, Mexico, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Brazil, Morocco, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Colombia, Russian Federation, Cuba, Singapore, Austria, Ghana, France, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Syrian Arab Republic, India, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Switzerland, Norway, South Africa, Germany, China, United Republic of Tanzania, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Portugal, United States, Jordan, Czechia, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Canada, Poland, Nicaragua, Eritrea, Slovenia, Australia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Denmark and Hungary.

31. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

32. The representative of the Holy See made a statement in its capacity as a non-member observer State.

33. A statement was also made by the representative of the following intergovernmental organization: INTERPOL.

34. Further statements were made by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations: Humanity for the World and Electronic Frontier Foundation.

35. The Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views on key elements of the convention, on the understanding that such exchange would assist national delegations in preparing their contributions to future substantive sessions.

VII. Discussion and decision-making on the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee during subsequent sessions and intersessional periods

36. At its 13th to 17th meetings, on 8, 9 and 10 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee considered agenda item 7, entitled “Discussion and decision-making on the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee during subsequent sessions and intersessional periods”.

37. For its consideration of item 7, the Ad Hoc Committee had before it a conference room paper containing a proposed road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee (A/AC.291/CRP.6).

38. Statements were made by representatives of the following Member States: Australia, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Russian Federation, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Egypt, Syrian Arab Republic, New Zealand, South Africa, Malaysia, Mexico, Armenia, Singapore, Belarus, Germany, Cuba, United Kingdom, China, Nicaragua, India, Eritrea, Indonesia, Austria, Brazil, Dominican Republic, France, Algeria, Colombia, Canada, United States, Argentina, Netherlands, Honduras, Viet Nam, Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Japan, Norway, Denmark, Jamaica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Jordan, United Republic of Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco and Namibia.

39. The representative of the European Union, in its capacity as observer, made a statement on behalf of the European Union and its member States.

40. The representative of the Holy See made a statement in its capacity as a non-member observer State.

41. A statement was made by the representative of the following intergovernmental organization: INTERPOL.

42. Statements were also made by representatives of the following organizations: Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Global Partners Digital Limited, Derechos Digitales, Association pour l’intégration et le développement durable au Burundi and Human Rights Watch (also on behalf of Electronic Frontier Foundation).

43. The Ad Hoc Committee exchanged views on its mode of work and decided to approve the road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee, contained in annex II to the present report.

VIII. Any other business

44. At its 16th and 18th meetings, on 9 and 10 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee considered agenda item 8, entitled “Any other business”.

45. A statement was made by the representative of the Russian Federation.

IX. Adoption of the report

46. At its 19th meeting, on 11 March 2022, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the report on its first session ([A/AC.291/L.4](#) and [A/AC.291/L.4/Add.1–Add.7](#)), as orally amended.

47. A statement was made by the representative of India.

X. Closure of the session

48. At its 19th meeting, on 11 March 2022, a closing statement was made by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Annex I

Structure of the comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes

1. The present text, prepared by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes, presents elements to form the structure of the future convention.

2. The following elements shall form the structure of the future convention:

Preamble

1. General provisions
2. Criminalization
3. Procedural measures and law enforcement
4. International cooperation
5. Technical assistance, including exchange of experience
6. Preventive measures
7. Mechanism of implementation
8. Final provisions

Annex II

Road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

I. Introduction

1. The present text was developed by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. It contains a proposed road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee for the period from its first session, held in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2022, to its concluding session, to be held in 2024, with a view to facilitating the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate through a well-planned, organized and transparent approach.

II. Road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee

2. The proposed road map (see the table below) has been prepared in accordance with the time frame established in the schedule for the negotiating and concluding sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee that was circulated by the Chair on 12 October 2021 and subsequently modified in accordance with General Assembly decision [76/552](#), in which the Assembly decided to postpone the first session of the Committee.

3. By taking into account the experiences of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, as well as the interrelationship of articles and the need for logical flow in the text of a convention, it is proposed that a negotiating document compiling Member States' proposals for a draft negotiating text of a convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes be prepared to serve as the basis for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee at its second and third sessions. At a later stage, a consolidated negotiating document will be prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the second and third sessions, and a draft text of the convention will be prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the fourth and fifth sessions. In this regard, the following actions will be taken:

(a) In advance of the second and third sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, Member States will be requested to provide to the Secretariat draft texts of chapters or provisions that are to be examined at those sessions, as indicated in the table below, no later than Friday, 8 April 2022, for the chapters to be examined during the second session, and no later than Friday, 1 July 2022, for the chapters to be examined during the third session.¹ Member States may also make submissions containing a draft text of the whole convention, if they so wish. The proposals are to be articulated in line with the chapters contained in the approved structure of the convention, as

¹ The United Nations rules on the processing of parliamentary documents require that mandated pre-session documents for all intergovernmental bodies be submitted 10 weeks before a meeting, processed within 4 weeks and issued within 6 weeks before the meeting. Therefore, if Member States submit draft provisions by the deadlines indicated, it is expected that the compiled text of chapters or provisions will be available, in the six official languages of the United Nations, before the respective sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Secretariat fully understands the importance and specificities of the process and will spare no effort in making the documents available as early as practicable. It cannot be guaranteed that submissions received after the deadlines indicated will be ready in the six official languages before the respective sessions. However, they will be made available on the website in the original version at the time of receipt.

adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session. The proposals are to take the form of specific drafting suggestions or general comments on the chapters under discussion;

(b) The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a negotiating document comprising a compilation of the proposals and contributions from Member States. The compilation will be focused on the specific chapters to be examined during the second and third sessions;

(c) The compiled negotiating document, containing the relevant chapters to be examined by the Ad Hoc Committee, will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the second and third sessions;

(d) Before the fourth session, the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a consolidated negotiating document on the basis of the outcomes of the first reading of the draft chapters of the convention during the second and third sessions;

(e) The consolidated negotiating document will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the fourth and fifth sessions;

(f) In advance of the sixth session, the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a draft text of the convention, based on the outcomes of the second reading of the draft chapters of the convention during the fourth and the fifth sessions;

(g) The draft text of the convention will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the sixth session.

4. The readings of the negotiating document in its compiled and consolidated form will be conducted chapter by chapter and in a well-structured way, during the first to sixth sessions of the Committee, so as to enable the draft convention to be adopted by the Committee at its concluding session, for submission to the General Assembly.

5. At the end of its third session, the Ad Hoc Committee may, if necessary, readjust the timetable in accordance with the progress made to date.

6. The preparation of the negotiating document and the collection of proposals and contributions from Member States between sessions are to be carried out without prejudice to the right of all delegations to submit proposals, as they deem appropriate, at any time during the negotiation process, for consideration and action by the Ad Hoc Committee. All submissions will be made available as received on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.

7. In paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), the Assembly encouraged the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to host intersessional consultations to solicit inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders on the elaboration of the draft convention. These consultations will be scheduled between the sessions of the Committee, bearing in mind that participation in the work of the Committee by multi-stakeholders does not entail negotiation and drafting roles, which are the exclusive prerogative of Member States (see section III below for the proposed organizational arrangements for the intersessional consultations).

Road map for the delivery of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, from the first session to the concluding session

<i>Session</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Meeting dates</i>	<i>Calendar days between sessions</i>	<i>Comments</i>
First session	New York	28 February–11 March 2022		<p>Substantive agenda items:</p> <p>(a) Objectives and scope of the convention, and structure of the convention;</p> <p>(b) Preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention;</p> <p>(c) Mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee</p> <p>Expected outcome: agreement on the objectives, scope and structure of the convention and the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee</p>
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	24 and 25 March 2022 ^a		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its second session
Deadline for submitting contributions on the provisions on criminalization, the general provisions and the provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement: 8 April 2022				
Second session	Vienna	30 May–10 June 2022	Eleven weeks between the first and second sessions	Substantive agenda item: first reading of the provisions on criminalization, the general provisions and the provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 13 to 17 June 2022		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its third session
Deadline for submitting contributions on the provisions on international cooperation, technical assistance, preventive measures and the mechanism of implementation, the final provisions and the preamble: 1 July 2022				
Third session	New York	29 August–9 September 2022 (nine-day meeting slot)	Eleven weeks between the second and third sessions	Substantive agenda item: first reading of the provisions on international cooperation, technical assistance, preventive measures and the mechanism of implementation, the final provisions and the preamble
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 31 October to 11 November 2022		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its fourth session

<i>Session</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Meeting dates</i>	<i>Calendar days between sessions</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Fourth session	Vienna	9–20 January 2023	Seventeen weeks between the third and fourth sessions	Substantive agenda item: second reading of the preamble, the general provisions and the provisions on criminalization and procedural measures and law enforcement At this stage, the Ad Hoc Committee may consider the establishment of an open-ended group of experts with skills in the official languages of the United Nations who would be tasked, towards the end of the session, with ensuring the consistency of the whole text of the convention in all official languages of the United Nations.
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the week of 6–10 March 2023		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its fifth session
Fifth session	Vienna	11–21 April 2023 (nine-day meeting slot)	Eleven weeks between the fourth and fifth sessions	Substantive agenda item: second reading of the provisions on international cooperation, preventive measures, technical assistance and the mechanism of implementation, and the final provisions
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 12 to 23 June 2023		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its sixth session
Sixth session	New York	21 August–1 September 2023	Seventeen weeks between the fifth and sixth sessions	Substantive agenda item: third reading of the draft text of the convention At this stage, the Ad Hoc Committee may invite Member States to consider the organization of a high-level political signing conference for the convention.
Concluding session (meeting dates and durations to be decided at a later stage)	New York	Any dates between 29 January and 9 February 2024	Twenty-one weeks between the sixth session and the concluding session	Finalization and approval of the draft text of the convention; discussion and approval of a draft resolution to which the text of the draft convention will be annexed, for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, in 2024

^a In order to ensure that multi-stakeholders are in a position to make informed contributions to the consultations and that their input is made available for the subsequent session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the main deciding factors for the date of an intersessional consultation are the intervals between the relevant sessions and the availability of the report on the previous session, the publication of which, in a desirable scenario, would be expected within six weeks after the conclusion of the session being reported on. Note that the dates for all of the intersessional consultations will be subject to consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

III. Organizational arrangements for the intersessional consultations

8. The road map for the intersessional consultations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), is proposed in the table above.

9. The Secretariat will issue a call, on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee, for registration by multi-stakeholders, as indicated in paragraphs 7 to 9 of General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), for participation in each intersessional consultation, at least 30 days before the commencement of the relevant consultation. The multi-stakeholders wishing to attend the consultation are to confirm their attendance no later than 10 days prior to the commencement of the consultation; the list of participants will be published on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.²

10. The multi-stakeholders may provide in writing their contributions on the elaboration of the new convention prior to a given intersessional consultation; the contributions will be posted on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.

11. The intersessional consultations will also be open to Member States and non-member observer States.

12. The intersessional consultations will be held in Vienna, in a hybrid format, with both in-person (to the greatest extent possible) and online components, to ensure the widest possible participation.

13. The Secretariat will prepare a programme for each intersessional consultation, to facilitate the engagement of participants.

14. The agenda for each intersessional consultation should align with the themes of the subsequent formal meeting of the Committee. Each meeting should last two days and include three to four panel discussions.

15. The intersessional consultations are to commence with expert panel discussions, taking into account respect for geographical and gender balance among panellists.

16. The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a report on each intersessional consultation. Each report is to be published, in English, on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee and circulated in advance of the subsequent formal meeting of the Committee. The translation of the reports into the other official languages of the United Nations will be subject to the documentation entitlements allocated to the Committee.

17. The Chair will briefly present the Chair's report on each intersessional consultation at the beginning of the subsequent session of the Committee.

² The deadlines indicated do not apply to the first intersessional consultation, owing to the time constraints resulting from the postponement of the first session.