

## **UK statement on adoption of the UN Convention against Cybercrime**

Madam Chair, one thing that all delegations have been able to agree throughout this process is the need to strengthen efforts to combat cybercrime.

This Convention can make a practical difference in achieving that aim. It harmonises domestic legislation on a set of core criminal offences, including, for the first time, the non-consensual dissemination of intimate images; it strengthens international cooperation; and it promotes technical assistance and capacity building.

Importantly, it does these things in a manner which is consistent with and builds upon existing United Nations and international instruments, including the Council of Europe's Budapest Convention. For example, the Convention includes important provisions which better protect our children online and which protect the personal data of our citizens.

In the spirit of compromise, the UK joined consensus on the basis of robust human rights safeguards that balance the Convention's broad scope of international cooperation and intrusive procedural powers. The UK has consistently advocated the importance of such safeguards, and we firmly believe those safeguards articulated in Articles 6, 24, 40 and elsewhere can enable effective international cooperation by building trust and confidence between States Parties.

Looking to the future, compliance with international human rights law will be an integral part of the implementation and operation of the Convention – whether that be criminalisation, the exercise of procedural powers, the rendering of international cooperation, or the provision of technical assistance and capacity building.

The UK remains of the view that a supplementary protocol is not necessary at this point. Our negotiations over the past two and a half years have demonstrated that there is no consensus on additional criminal offences.

Stakeholders have undoubtedly played an invaluable role in our negotiations and we should ensure they can do the same as the Ad Hoc Committee continues its work and in the future Conference of Parties.

Finally, the UK would like to thank all of those delegates and colleagues who have worked so hard to deliver this Convention, including the Vice Chairs, the various facilitators and coordinators, and the Secretariat.

Madam Chair, the UK delegation wholeheartedly praises the work you and Tahar have done to find a delicate balance between divergent positions which has led us to consensus. We salute your dedication, your patience and your courage.

Thank you, Madam Chair.