

*Unofficial translation*

**Statement by the delegation of the Russian Federation at the resumed  
final session of the UN Ad Hoc Committee**  
*(New York, July 29-August 9, 2024)*

**Criminalization (elaboration of an additional protocol)**

The Updated draft text of the convention (UDTC), submitted to the current session of the Ad Hoc Committee, does not include articles, proposed by the Russian delegation during the entire period of the Ad Hoc Committee's work, on criminalization of the most dangerous types of crimes, committed through the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs). The damage, caused by such offences, its scale and spreading speed are enormous. These are, first and foremost, crimes of a terrorist and extremist nature, the illegal trafficking of drugs and weapons, the involvement of minors in the commission of unlawful acts, dangerous to their life and health, and others.

Our alternative proposal — to list traditional types of crimes, committed through the use of ICTs, in one certain article of the Chapter on «Criminalization» - has also not being taken into account.

The reasons for the opposition of some States to broadening the scope of the convention are understandable.to

However, it is also clear that those States, who creates an obstacles to the establishment of a treaty-based legal framework for cooperation on these types of crimes, are themselves suffering the consequences of its commission.

Many States have noted the rapid growth of ICTs-related crime, that consequently resulting in severe damage to national economies, despite the measures taken by law enforcement agencies at the national level.

The considerable damage to individuals, society and the State is caused by transnational criminal groups, and the actions of such criminals even so often go unpunished.

This once again shows that it is insufficient to make efforts only within a single State; an inter-State coordinated system for countering information crime must be put in place.

The Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies (OEWG) discusses problems, related to the malicious use of ICTs by State and non-State actors, including terrorists and criminal groups. The continuing growth of cyber incidents, including those against critical infrastructure, and in the field of health care, aviation and energy, is also noted.

So why is this issue being ignored on the specialized platform of the Ad Hoc Committee? It turns out that within the OEWG a problem with this phenomenon exists, while in the Ad Hoc Committee, which is specifically devoted to the issue of countering ICTs-related crime, such a problem does not exist, or at least, according to some delegations, allegedly there are legal levers for its solution already. But that is not the case.

Terrorist attacks, organized in a short period of time due to the possibilities of lightning-fast dissemination of information to the organizers and participants of such crimes and for the attraction financial support, lead to the most catastrophic consequences for both citizens and the State as a whole. One need not go far for an example. The terrorist act, committed against civilians, including children, in March this year in the Crocus City Hall concert hall in the Moscow region. How many more such monstrous tragedies must there be. We recall that this terrorist act was prepared with the use of information and communication technologies.

To date, there is no universal legal mechanism for cooperation to prevent such atrocities.

In that regard, the Russian delegation is convinced, that the treaty and legal mechanism being developed in the UN Ad Hoc Committee must meet all contemporary challenges, include the widest range of crimes without limiting future challenges in the information environment, and create sufficient opportunities for effective cooperation among the law enforcement agencies of the States of the world in order to prevent and combat such crimes.

We continue to insist on a broad list of criminalization in the convention. An alternative to this can only be the elaboration of an additional protocol to the

convention on the criminalization of relevant offences, which should be reflected in a resolution of the UN General Assembly.

We recall that at previous sessions, even at the beginning of the negotiation process, when the Russian delegation proposed traditional types of offences committed through the use of ICTs for inclusion in the Chapter on «Criminalization» of the draft convention, we were told by Western delegations that all such offences could be included in an additional protocol. And what about now? There is again no agreement on this issue.