

09 August 2024



**ORAL STATEMENT**

*\*Check against delivery*

UN Headquarters, New York

**United Nations Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of ICTs for Criminal Purposes**

**Intervention during 18th meeting of reconvened concluding session (Day 10 afternoon)**

*Delivered by: Raman Jit Singh Chima, Global Cybersecurity Lead | Senior International Counsel and Asia Pacific Policy Director*

Thank you Madam Chair. At the outset of our remarks, we convey our deep thanks to you, the vice chairs, and especially the secretariat and Tahar for providing us this space and facilitating our participation in addition to all your efforts. And in particular Madam Chair, we again emphasize - our community is aware of the unenviable job you have had. The many thanks you have received here from your colleagues are well deserved.

As you know, we and several of our civil society colleagues have engaged from the beginning of this process, seeking to actively analyze, advise, and advocate for the universal human rights of all the peoples of the United Nations. We know the efforts made by those in these plenary and committee rooms, as well as hallways, dining rooms, and beyond, and the understandable sense of relief and accomplishment you all have after this intense, difficult work. In the spirit of the trust that you Madam Chair, and so many delegates have shown us, please permit us these additional words.

As we indicated in discussions over the summer and when we reconvened here last week, the question that it boiled down to was - is an imperfect and flawed treaty better than no treaty? You have heard our voice. However, we must now see what happens next.

To your credit, we have never seen a treaty passed so quickly. However, we have also never seen civil society, the cybersecurity community, and industry so aligned against a standard that states cheer. We urge you to question and understand why our stakeholder communities were able to find such common ground. Perhaps as this moves toward the General Assembly and takes form we can find ways to build stronger mechanisms to reinforce the hard-won standards on human rights, press freedom, and gender equality of other UN bodies, and ensure “sufficient respect and protections,” as the joint [multistakeholder statement](#) issued on August 8 urges.

We are glad for the degree of support provided to Article 6 (on respect to human rights), Articles 24 and 35 (safeguards and principles for domestic procedural measures and international cooperation), Article 36 (protection of personal data), Article 40(21) and (22) (mutual legal assistance), and Article 53(e) (recognising the importance of security researchers). These are not in the form they need to be, but they do now exist in this final text that this body has adopted.

These cannot be a dead letter. They cannot be purely a check-box on paper. They must be implemented, rigorously and consistently if this convention is signed and ratified by states. And most crucially, remember — as many of you indicated — that these principles and safeguards in this convention are only a baseline. We remind states that they can do more and indeed we urge you all to do exactly that.

We all now have a “responsibility to improve,” to ensure that our evolving global cybercrime legal frameworks better safeguard human rights and protect the human beings who help ensure our cybersecurity. We heard that this is not a human rights convention. We agree, but therefore charge you to redouble efforts, to dedicate the resources and time this urgent topic received to revitalizing the interpretation and application of human rights in the digital age, in real ways on the ground as well as in UN forums. All of us from the stakeholder community look forward to working with you all to ensure that, nationally and internationally.

Thank you Madame Chair, delegates. While this part of this journey is complete - and we wish you many of you safe return home - we look forward to engaging in the next phase of this struggle.



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