

## **1<sup>st</sup> Statement - Turkish Mission to the UN**

### **Meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**

**New York, 24 February 2022**

Distinguished Chair,

From the outset, allow us to express our appreciation and gratitude for your leadership and intensive efforts since the beginning of this process.

We also would like to congratulate Brazil for the election today, and wish the best of luck.

Madame Chair,

We are firmly convinced of the necessity of full international cooperation in countering the use of ICTs for criminal purposes. We attach due importance to the Ad Hoc Committee.

We will continue to work with all the Member States towards a positive, productive, sustainable outcome.

We believe that the participation of private sector, civil society and academia can and should contribute to the process. We recognize the dynamic nature of the ICT sector and the important role such stakeholders play in this field.

Having said that, I also have to underscore that the process ought to be strictly Member State driven. The UN is an intergovernmental organization.

In that sense, we believe in the preeminence of the non-objection principle regarding the participation of relevant stakeholders in the Committee as set in the General Assembly decision 75/282.

The concerns and objections of the Member States regarding other stakeholders' participation in the Committee should have been respected during the process.

Thus, proposal of amendment today aiming to reinsert three NGOs objected by Member States caused frustration.

We had expected our legitimate objection to one particular NGO, stemming from national security concerns, would be respected.

And our objection and concerns have been shared in a most transparent manner.

We see a dangerous precedent being set. The tendency of disregarding principles, appropriate mechanisms of the UN and legitimate concerns of Member States, in practice offering blank checks can prove to be a double-edged sword.

We thank those Members of the Committee who respected legitimate objections of Member States.

Turkey believes in the value of consensus, especially in these challenging times.

Yet we want to register, once again, our objection to the participation of one specific entity (Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime) in the Ad Hoc Committee.

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I would like to reiterate that Turkey opposes the participation of Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

We kindly request the Secretariat to ensure this intervention be included in the proper way in the records of the Committee, as well as the letter by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Turkey to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Vienna, addressed to the Chair of the Committee, dated 20 December 2021.

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