

General Secretariat statement at the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

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Permanent Observer Delegation to the United Nations in New York

Statement of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States at the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

Resumed Final Session

Minister Plenipotentiary

Dr. Maha Bakhit

Director of the Department of Legal Affairs

General Secretariat of the League of Arab States

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I am pleased to welcome you all today on behalf of the General Secretariat of the League of Arab States. The League of Arab States lauds the efforts of Ambassador Fawzia Boumaiza Mubarak, Chairperson of the Committee, and we highly value her wise and professional leadership of the Committee's work. We also extend our gratitude to the General Secretariat for its efforts in supporting the Committee's meetings, and we hope to reach a common vision and consensus on all the provisions of this agreement.

The League of Arab States has participated in all the Committee's sessions since its inception, whether in Vienna or New York. His Excellency the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, has emphasised the importance of including the topic of the Comprehensive International Convention on Combating the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for the Purposes of Organised Crime in the meetings held within the framework of the League of Arab States to crystallise a unified Arab vision.

Madam President,

The League of Arab States has been a pioneer in this field. The Arab Convention on Combating Information Technology Crimes was approved in 2010 at the joint meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior. We are very proud that the extensive efforts and provisions of the Arab Convention were considered when drafting this international convention, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 247/74, Paragraph 2, which called for full consideration of existing international instruments and ongoing efforts at the national, regional, and international levels to combat the use of information and communications technology for criminal purposes.

While the League of Arab States affirms its support for the positions expressed by its member states in their national capacities, it will remain engaged in all discussions until we reach full agreement on all the provisions. This approach is consistent with the League's practice in all international agreements, such as the International Convention against Corruption. The League of Arab States participated in all committees and meetings until the Convention was agreed upon and subsequently encouraged Arab countries to join. Today, all Arab countries have joined and ratified the Convention, except for one country, which has signed but is in the process of completing the ratification documents.

We will adopt the same approach with the Comprehensive Convention on Combating the Use of Information and Communication Technologies for Crime Purposes. Joining international agreements is a political decision, and the League of Arab States has full access to all decision-makers in the Arab region through specialised ministerial councils. We will work diligently to urge Arab countries to join and ratify this agreement.

We hope that the work of this meeting will succeed and that we achieve full agreement on all texts.

Thank you, Madam President.