



CZECH REPUBLIC

Permanent Mission of the Czech Republic to the United Nations

Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on
Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal
Purposes - Third Session

Statement by

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Madam Chair,

Czechia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and adds the following in its national capacity.

In general, we consider technical assistance and capacity building to be one of the key components of the future convention. We see it as essential that the needs of countries which identify certain deficiencies in their fight against cybercrime are listened to, and – if possible – solved by means of capacity building. And there are two reasons for that. One is obviously to help the country to tackle its problems but the second reason is perhaps even a more important one – because as cybercrime interconnects the entire world, the deficiencies of one country in the fight against cybercrime are the deficiencies of all of us. Therefore, in line with the motto of the SDGs, we can leave no one behind.

Now coming to your questions, Madam Chair.

To question 24 – what specific areas of technical assistance should be covered by the convention – the European Union listed a great list of areas that could be covered and we totally agree with them. We would only add that any list of such areas should not be exhaustive, it should serve only as guidance and examples, so that no need for technical assistance which would not be envisaged at the moment of the drafting of the convention but might arise later would not be met.

In connection to question 25 we would like to primarily emphasize the need for promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms which must be an overarching principle for all our actions. Furthermore, mainstreaming gender perspective into all our actions is also key. It is always important to build up on best practices, and in this context we can mention the work of the UN intergovernmental expert group on cybercrime which has already provided several interesting ideas, as well as other programs of the UN or e.g. the Council of Europe.

Question 26 on specific needs of developing countries is a very important one. The Czech Republic cannot answer what the developing countries need but it is exactly the point to ask those countries what they need, so that the technical assistance is provided on demand and fit to their needs. In this context, the proposal of Brazil to have the requests and offers of technical assistance compiled in a paper, published on the ad-hoc committee website and continuously updated and developed seems to be very good and practical and would be worth to be further elaborated. And the Czech Republic will be happy to cooperate in this sense.

To question 27 – as we already mentioned under question 25, the role of the UN, and in particular of the UNODC and its Global Program on Cybercrime, is remarkable in this field and it should be emphasized in the convention. Other relevant international organizations and bodies can be mentioned too.

With respect to question 28, in addition to what has been suggested by the European Union, we would add also trainings of trainers who would be able to spread the expertise obtained to other countries in the given regions. And we also think it is important and useful that the country or institution providing capacity building establishes a closer contact with the partner country receiving the capacity building and builds up mutual cooperation channels.

Question 29 is not easy but in our opinion capacity building is a broader term than technical assistance. Not only because the word “technical” might evoke only “technological” or other “hard, material” support, but also because capacity building has a connotation of longer-term effects. Technical assistance sounds more like a one-time action, whereas when capacities are built, the effects of it can and should last long. But in general, we are not against the use of any of these terms, as long as it is understood what kind of assistance is provided.

We could also support having a 24/7 point of contact assisting parties, if it is a part of a broader concept or methodology of providing capacity building which we consider even more important having.

And concerning question 31, we totally support the inclusion of private sector and non-governmental organizations in capacity building. They have the perspective which we do not have, experience different from ours and often also the resources which we don't have, so their contribution would be very useful. In this context, we would also like to emphasize the role of schools and universities which can participate by means of providing education programs to developing countries as the need for education had been mentioned by several states at previous occasions, today e.g. by Senegal.

Madam Chair, I would like to conclude by informing the distinguished delegates of the conclusions of a side event which the Czech Republic organized in cooperation with the Council of Europe and Interpol yesterday on the topic of capacity building in the fight against cybercrime. I would like to thank all the speakers and participants for a very fruitful discussion which involved both providers of capacity building as well as its recipients – or rather partners as it was suggested to better call them as their experience is also very useful for others. We have come to several conclusions which can be of use for the process of the convention as well as for provision of capacity building in general. The participants have agreed upon that capacity building cannot be a one-sided process but a two-way road, it needs to be demanded and mutually communicated. It should bring together experts, both nationally as well as internationally, including governments and multistakeholders. And the results should be sustainable. We heard many interesting and very specific suggestions there and in order not to take any of your time now I would refer all interested delegates to consult the UN WEB TV website where the record of this side event is stored.

Thank you for your attention.