

**Joint Statement on the forum for negotiations and decision-making process towards the implementation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/247 on 'Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes'**

*On behalf of*

*Albania; Australia; Chile; Dominican Republic; the European Union and its 27 Member States: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden; Guatemala; Honduras; Japan; New Zealand; Nigeria; Norway; Ukraine; United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; United States of America.*

UN Member States have recognized cybercrime as a common transnational challenge that demands increased international cooperation to combat it.

Although there are different approaches and visions concerning the development of the legal framework to prevent and combat cybercrime, we consider the process towards the implementation of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 74/247 on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes to be of great importance.

An endeavor such as the creation of a new legal instrument to strengthen this international framework demands a most encompassing approach, so as to accommodate the different views and positions of Member States, while maximizing its concrete effectiveness. The process of consensus creates positive attitudes and a sense of ownership which carry over beyond the agreement and tend to facilitate the adhesion to as well as the implementation of formal agreements.

In order to pursue this objective, we wish to stress the following:

*We recognize the central role of UNODC, both in terms of expertise and as a repository of knowledge on cybercrime, as well as the central role of Vienna as the UN forum on cybercrime matters, as it is for criminal matters in general.*

*Previous fundamental treaties dealing with criminal justice (UNTOC and UNCAC) were negotiated in this forum on a consensus basis. They are undoubtedly effective mechanisms for international cooperation in the fight against crime and this Vienna-based consensual approach helped them enjoy near universal ratification, reflecting the inclusiveness and participation of all interested UN Member States in the negotiation, while fostering technical assistance as a decisive element since their entry into force.*

*Vienna represents the most resource-efficient venue for this kind of negotiations.*

We therefore believe that Vienna is the forum where the negotiations on a new instrument should take place, on the basis of consensus.