



Statement by

His Excellency Brian Wallace

Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations

on behalf of

The Caribbean Community

(CARICOM)

at the General Debate of the First Session of

The Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive

International Convention on Countering the Use of

Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal

Purposes

Conference Room 4, UN Headquarters

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Madame Chair,

I have the honour to address this Committee on behalf of the fourteen (14) member states of the Caribbean Community. At the outset, CARICOM wishes to thank you for your leadership of this negotiation process to elaborate a comprehensive international convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

We have observed with keen interest the views expressed by many Members over the past few months and welcome this opportunity to reiterate our own position in this the first formal session of the Ad Hoc Committee. Indeed, this is an important step towards a unified global response to the challenges States encounter due to the threat and use of ICTs for criminal purposes and we remain fully committed to this process and the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

Cybercrime is a major obstacle and threat to social and sustained economic development in our region and my country in particular. As small island, coastal and low-lying developing states, the issue of cybercrime presents significant challenge to our development. A UN Convention, such as the one we are about to negotiate, will contribute to strengthening Cyber Security, which is part of a strategy to achieve technological resilience and is needed to strengthen social resilience and citizen security. We strongly believe that a Convention must serve the global community by seeking to protect our economies and citizens from cyber threats or other criminal attacks.

Madame Chair,

CARICOM maintains the view that the development of a multilateral convention to address this issue needs to be inclusive. It is essential that there is full participation and adequate representation of all UN member states in the process, especially for small states like those of our region. We therefore welcome any assistance to accommodate and enhance our fullest participation in this process.

Furthermore, we welcome the involvement of experts in the field whose contributions will enrich our deliberations. CARICOM believes that the process can benefit significantly from the participation of a wide cross section of multi-stakeholder groups in the informal consultative sessions to inform our negotiations and decision making by member states.

The more expeditious the deliberations, the sooner we can have a convention that regulates cybercrime globally and in a timely manner as the issue is very dynamic and has the potential to increase crime, harm critical infrastructure and ultimately hinder the achievement of development goals.

CARICOM is of the firm view that a new Convention should have due regard to the principle of state sovereignty, as well as other principles outlined in the United Nations Charter, and International Law. We must uphold human rights as outlined in our international obligations to which we are all parties. We can in no way separate the virtual from the actual by rescinding from them. Enhancing international cooperation, including in the exchange of information to assist States to combat and prosecute the criminal use of ICTs should be an

overarching objective. Central to the pillar of international cooperation on criminal matters, in particular cybercrime, is the issue of mutual legal assistance. CARICOM posits that, where no mutual legal assistance treaty exists between States, the Convention ought to guide States on the process to make requests and to respond to requests. This should include matters such as the responsibility for costs.

It is within this context that we call for consideration to be given to the establishment of an IT fund to support the capacity building of countries to strengthen all areas required to respond to cybercrime.

Madame Chair,

I take this opportunity to reaffirm CARICOM's full support to your chairmanship throughout these negotiations. We look forward to expanding on our positions in the coming days and engaging in a very fruitful exchange towards the advancement of the process.

Thank you.