

# **Road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes\***

## **I. Introduction**

1. The present text was developed by the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. It contains a proposed road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee for the period from its first session, held in New York from 28 February to 11 March 2022, to its concluding session, to be held in 2024, with a view to facilitating the fulfilment of the Committee's mandate through a well-planned, organized and transparent approach.

## **II. Road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee**

2. The proposed road map (see the table below) has been prepared in accordance with the time frame established in the schedule for the negotiating and concluding sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee that was circulated by the Chair on 12 October 2021 and subsequently modified in accordance with General Assembly decision [76/552](#), in which the Assembly decided to postpone the first session of the Committee.

3. By taking into account the experiences of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Negotiation of a Convention against Corruption, as well as the interrelationship of articles and the need for logical flow in the text of a convention, it is proposed that a negotiating document compiling Member States' proposals for a draft negotiating text of a convention on countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes be prepared to serve as the basis for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee at its second and third sessions. At a later stage, a consolidated negotiating document will be prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the second and third sessions, and a draft text of the convention will be prepared on the basis of the outcomes of the fourth and fifth sessions. In this regard, the following actions will be taken:

(a) In advance of the second and third sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee, Member States will be requested to provide to the Secretariat draft texts of chapters or provisions that are to be examined at those sessions, as indicated in the table below, no later than Friday, 8 April 2022, for the chapters to be examined during the second session, and no later than Friday, 1 July 2022, for the chapters to be examined during the third session.<sup>1</sup> Member States may also make submissions containing a draft text of the whole convention, if they so wish. The proposals are to be articulated in line with the chapters contained in the approved structure of the convention, as

---

\* The "Road map and mode of work for the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes" is contained in Annex II to document [A/AC.291/7](#).

<sup>1</sup> The United Nations rules on the processing of parliamentary documents require that mandated pre-session documents for all intergovernmental bodies be submitted 10 weeks before a meeting, processed within 4 weeks and issued within 6 weeks before the meeting. Therefore, if Member States submit draft provisions by the deadlines indicated, it is expected that the compiled text of chapters or provisions will be available, in the six official languages of the United Nations, before the respective sessions of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Secretariat fully understands the importance and specificities of the process and will spare no effort in making the documents available as early as practicable. It cannot be guaranteed that submissions received after the deadlines indicated will be ready in the six official languages before the respective sessions. However, they will be made available on the website in the original version at the time of receipt.

adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee at its first session. The proposals are to take the form of specific drafting suggestions or general comments on the chapters under discussion;

(b) The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a negotiating document comprising a compilation of the proposals and contributions from Member States. The compilation will be focused on the specific chapters to be examined during the second and third sessions;

(c) The compiled negotiating document, containing the relevant chapters to be examined by the Ad Hoc Committee, will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the second and third sessions;

(d) Before the fourth session, the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a consolidated negotiating document on the basis of the outcomes of the first reading of the draft chapters of the convention during the second and third sessions;

(e) The consolidated negotiating document will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the fourth and fifth sessions;

(f) In advance of the sixth session, the Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a draft text of the convention, based on the outcomes of the second reading of the draft chapters of the convention during the fourth and the fifth sessions;

(g) The draft text of the convention will be circulated to Member States, after being translated into the six official languages of the United Nations, in advance of the sixth session.

4. The readings of the negotiating document in its compiled and consolidated form will be conducted chapter by chapter and in a well-structured way, during the first to sixth sessions of the Committee, so as to enable the draft convention to be adopted by the Committee at its concluding session, for submission to the General Assembly.

5. At the end of its third session, the Ad Hoc Committee may, if necessary, readjust the timetable in accordance with the progress made to date.

6. The preparation of the negotiating document and the collection of proposals and contributions from Member States between sessions are to be carried out without prejudice to the right of all delegations to submit proposals, as they deem appropriate, at any time during the negotiation process, for consideration and action by the Ad Hoc Committee. All submissions will be made available as received on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.

7. In paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), the Assembly encouraged the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee to host intersessional consultations to solicit inputs from a diverse range of stakeholders on the elaboration of the draft convention. These consultations will be scheduled between the sessions of the Committee, bearing in mind that participation in the work of the Committee by multi-stakeholders does not entail negotiation and drafting roles, which are the exclusive prerogative of Member States (see section III below for the proposed organizational arrangements for the intersessional consultations).

**Road map for the delivery of the mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee, from the first session to the concluding session**

<i>Session</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Meeting dates</i>	<i>Calendar days between sessions</i>	<i>Comments</i>
First session	New York	28 February– 11 March 2022		Substantive agenda items: (a) Objectives and scope of the convention, and structure of the convention; (b) Preliminary exchange of views on key elements of the convention; (c) Mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee Expected outcome: agreement on the objectives, scope and structure of the convention and the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	24 and 25 March 2022 <sup>a</sup>		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its second session
Deadline for submitting contributions on the provisions on criminalization, the general provisions and the provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement: 8 April 2022				
Second session	Vienna	30 May–10 June 2022	Eleven weeks between the first and second sessions	Substantive agenda item: first reading of the provisions on criminalization, the general provisions and the provisions on procedural measures and law enforcement
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 13 to 17 June 2022		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its third session
Deadline for submitting contributions on the provisions on international cooperation, technical assistance, preventive measures and the mechanism of implementation, the final provisions and the preamble: 1 July 2022				
Third session	New York	29 August–9 September 2022 (nine-day meeting slot)	Eleven weeks between the second and third sessions	Substantive agenda item: first reading of the provisions on international cooperation, technical assistance, preventive measures and the mechanism of implementation, the final provisions and the preamble
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 31 October to 11 November 2022		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its fourth session

<i>Session</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>Meeting dates</i>	<i>Calendar days between sessions</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Fourth session	Vienna	9–20 January 2023	Seventeen weeks between the third and fourth sessions	Substantive agenda item: second reading of the preamble, the general provisions and the provisions on criminalization and procedural measures and law enforcement  At this stage, the Ad Hoc Committee may consider the establishment of an open-ended group of experts with skills in the official languages of the United Nations who would be tasked, towards the end of the session, with ensuring the consistency of the whole text of the convention in all official languages of the United Nations.
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the week of 6–10 March 2023		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its fifth session
Fifth session	Vienna	11–21 April 2023 (nine-day meeting slot)	Eleven weeks between the fourth and fifth sessions	Substantive agenda item: second reading of the provisions on international cooperation, preventive measures, technical assistance and the mechanism of implementation, and the final provisions
Intersessional consultation with multi-stakeholders	Vienna, hybrid meeting	Two days in the period from 12 to 23 June 2023		Proposed agenda item: soliciting inputs on the items to be discussed by the Ad Hoc Committee at its sixth session
Sixth session	New York	21 August–1 September 2023	Seventeen weeks between the fifth and sixth sessions	Substantive agenda item: third reading of the draft text of the convention  At this stage, the Ad Hoc Committee may invite Member States to consider the organization of a high-level political signing conference for the convention.
Concluding session (meeting dates and durations to be decided at a later stage)	New York	Any dates between 29 January and 9 February 2024	Twenty-one weeks between the sixth session and the concluding session	Finalization and approval of the draft text of the convention; discussion and approval of a draft resolution to which the text of the draft convention will be annexed, for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, in 2024

<sup>a</sup> In order to ensure that multi-stakeholders are in a position to make informed contributions to the consultations and that their input is made available for the subsequent session of the Ad Hoc Committee, the main deciding factors for the date of an intersessional consultation are the intervals between the relevant sessions and the availability of the report on the previous session, the publication of which, in a desirable scenario, would be expected within six weeks after the conclusion of the session being reported on. Note that the dates for all of the intersessional consultations will be subject to consultation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.

### **III. Organizational arrangements for the intersessional consultations**

8. The road map for the intersessional consultations, pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), is proposed in the table above.
9. The Secretariat will issue a call, on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee, for registration by multi-stakeholders, as indicated in paragraphs 7 to 9 of General Assembly resolution [75/282](#), for participation in each intersessional consultation, at least 30 days before the commencement of the relevant consultation. The multi-stakeholders wishing to attend the consultation are to confirm their attendance no later than 10 days prior to the commencement of the consultation; the list of participants will be published on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.<sup>2</sup>
10. The multi-stakeholders may provide in writing their contributions on the elaboration of the new convention prior to a given intersessional consultation; the contributions will be posted on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee.
11. The intersessional consultations will also be open to Member States and non-member observer States.
12. The intersessional consultations will be held in Vienna, in a hybrid format, with both in-person (to the greatest extent possible) and online components, to ensure the widest possible participation.
13. The Secretariat will prepare a programme for each intersessional consultation, to facilitate the engagement of participants.
14. The agenda for each intersessional consultation should align with the themes of the subsequent formal meeting of the Committee. Each meeting should last two days and include three to four panel discussions.
15. The intersessional consultations are to commence with expert panel discussions, taking into account respect for geographical and gender balance among panellists.
16. The Chair, with the support of the Secretariat, will prepare a report on each intersessional consultation. Each report is to be published, in English, on the website of the Ad Hoc Committee and circulated in advance of the subsequent formal meeting of the Committee. The translation of the reports into the other official languages of the United Nations will be subject to the documentation entitlements allocated to the Committee.
17. The Chair will briefly present the Chair's report on each intersessional consultation at the beginning of the subsequent session of the Committee.

---

<sup>2</sup> The deadlines indicated do not apply to the first intersessional consultation, owing to the time constraints resulting from the postponement of the first session.