



PRESS RELEASE

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United Nations Adopts Landmark Convention On Cybercrime

(Accra, Ghana) - The United Nations has taken a significant step in strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime with the adoption of the "United Nations Convention against Cybercrime: Strengthening International Cooperation for Combating Certain Crimes Committed by Means of Information and Communications Technology Systems and for the Sharing of Evidence in Electronic Form of Serious Crimes."

This landmark convention was officially adopted by the Ad Hoc Committee on Cybercrime at its reconvened concluding session held from July 29 to August 8, 2024, in New York.

The convention represents a major milestone in the international community's efforts to address the increasing use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes.

Established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 74/247 of December 27, 2019, the Ad Hoc Committee was tasked with developing a comprehensive international framework to combat cybercrime, considering existing international instruments and previous expert studies.

Under the direction of the Ministry of Communications and Digitalisation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and with the support of the Ghana Missions in Vienna and New York and the Council of Europe, the Cyber Security Authority, as members of Ghana's delegation, in collaboration with the Joint Cybersecurity Committee (JCC), made significant technical contributions during the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee process. The CSA's submissions highlighted the need to protect human rights, data privacy, international cooperation and children online, among others.

Significance of the Convention for Ghana and Africa

For Ghana and the broader African continent, the convention offers a crucial framework to enhance national and regional cybersecurity efforts. As Africa rapidly adopts digital technologies, the need to address cybercrime has become increasingly urgent.

This treaty on cybercrime will provide nations who ratify and accede to it an enhanced Legal Framework to strengthen national laws and regulations to better combat cybercrime. This alignment with international standards will help build robust legal mechanisms capable of addressing the evolving threats in the digital space.



The convention will further foster greater collaboration between African countries and the global community, facilitating the sharing of evidence and information necessary for investigating and prosecuting cybercrimes. This enhanced cooperation is vital for overcoming jurisdictional challenges and improving the effectiveness of cross-border law enforcement.

The adoption of the convention will also help to strengthen Capacity Building on the continent; Ghana and other African nations can benefit from international best practices and support in developing their cybersecurity capabilities. This includes training, technical assistance, and resources to better equip local authorities and institutions.

"This new convention is a crucial tool for enhancing global collaboration in the fight against cybercrime. "By providing a robust legal framework and facilitating the sharing of evidence across borders, we are reinforcing our collective ability to address the challenges posed by cybercrime effectively," the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, Ms. Faouzia Boumaiza Mebarki, stated.

The adoption of the convention marks the culmination of intensive work by the Ad Hoc Committee, which has held multiple sessions since its first organisational meeting in August 2020. The comprehensive nature of the convention reflects the commitment of the international community to addressing the evolving threats in the digital age.

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