



Inter-Parliamentary Union

For democracy. For everyone.

Creating a safe cyberspace for democracy

Parliamentary inputs for the negotiations on the United Nations convention on cybercrime to ensure that the needs of the citizens, parliaments and their members are met

Virtual meeting with the Chair of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes

6 December 2022

Session 1: Timed for the Asia/Pacific region – 7:00 – 9:00 CET

Session 2: Timed for Africa, Europe and the Americas – 16:30 – 18:30 CET

Societies have grown and developed around digital technologies to the extent that all aspects of society, critical infrastructures such as electricity, water, gas, banking, communications, transportation or hospitals all rely on them and the internet to efficiently deliver goods and services. Users can carry out their many day-to-day tasks much more efficiently online. Cyberspace has expanded beyond a simple “technical” realm to become a new dimension where virtual interactions and activities replace physical and material interactions. Digital technology reliance comes with the risk of cybercrime against society at large and individuals, which has become particularly evident following the recent COVID-19 pandemic during which cyberattacks on individuals increased drastically.

Parliamentarians, as representatives of the people, are the first line of response to the issue of cybercrime. Their legislative, oversight, budgetary and representative functions are key to understanding and addressing these modern threats nationally and internationally. Parliaments themselves are not immune to cyberattacks as can be seen from a multitude of reports on hacking, attacks on communications infrastructures and on targeted attacks on members of parliaments. Such cyberattacks threaten to disrupt the functioning of democratic institutions that should be considered as critical infrastructure.

The virtual meeting sessions are an exclusive opportunity to inform the Chair of the United Nations Ad hoc Committee who is conducting negotiations on a convention on cybercrime about the needs and importance of the involvement of parliaments and parliamentarians in this global attempt to address cyber risks efficiently and in a manner aligned with individual rights and personal freedoms. The sessions will draw on parliamentary experiences on exposure to, mitigation of and the countering of cybercrime, and seek to put forward concrete recommendations highlighting the potential of parliaments as focal points for shaping and implementing a safe cyberspace for all.

Objectives of the event

1. To raise awareness about the risks and consequences of cybercrime on citizens and critical infrastructures.
2. To share “good parliamentary practices” and effective policies on addressing cybercrime.
3. To identify and communicate provisions that parliamentarians would like to see included in the convention, relative to the protection of citizens in the cyber dimension, and the classification of parliaments as critical infrastructure.

The event will take place online in two sessions to accommodate participants in different time zones and allow for a maximum of points of view to be heard and have an exchange of experiences. Session 1 will be in English only. Session 2 will be conducted in English, French, Spanish, and Arabic with simultaneous interpretation.

Registration

Session 1: Timed for the Asia/Pacific region – 7:00 CET (English only)

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_dMEN_hv2QGO5vUyrHFry0g

Session 2: Timed for Europe, Africa and the Americas: 16:30 CET (English, French, Spanish and Arabic)

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HYpQIITqR_uSqLUt0Zj9tq