

Delegation from New Zealand
Position Paper for the General Assembly First Committee

The following items are presented before the General Assembly First Committee: Artificial Intelligence and the International System; and Cybercrimes and Human Security. New Zealand recognizes and acknowledges the pressing matters of both topics on the global scale and looks forward to discussing these issues at the upcoming conference.

I. Artificial Intelligence and the International System

In this increasingly digitalized world, the need for regulation on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and advanced technology systems are ever prevalent. The threat of AI is real as it undermines governments, institutions, and threatens privacy, information, and human rights. While the benefits of AI are evident, it needs to be controlled. Only recently did the High-Level Advisory Body on AI come out. The groundwork is being laid however the establishment of proper regulation is integral to maintaining the balance between technology and humanity. New Zealand urges Member States to come forward with stronger regulations for AI.

So far, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has set its standards with its recommendation on ethics of AI in 2021. UNESCO looked to create a basis in which AI systems work for the good of humanity. In addition to this, the UN's High-Level Advisory Body on AI has released its Interim Report for Governing AI for Humanity in December of 2023. This report outlines principles and guidelines that provides framework for international governance of AI. Other international bodies and states outside of the UN have established their own commitments, like the Group of 7 (G7) Hiroshima AI Process in May 2023, the Bletchley Declaration in November 2023, and the forthcoming AI Act that the European Union (EU) is imposing later this year. In New Zealand, AI is covered by the Algorithm Charter which was passed in July 2020. This charter aims to improve transparency and accountability in our use of algorithms over the next 5 years. New Zealand relies on AI to deliver goods to the public sector for various reasons. One of the ways we've regulated and implemented AI is providing leadership across the public sector. This was done through our Government Chief Digital Officer Leadership (GCDO) on AI in public sector. The GCDO works with our agencies and other leaders in government to develop structures for good usage of AI for the public.

New Zealand expresses its commitment for the ethical use of AI and the development of its regulations on the global scale. Increased collaboration, agreements, and training must be shared across all Member States on all levels. Non governmental organizations (NGO), public/private service sectors, companies, and academics are among groups that can assist in solution making. New Zealand also proposes for the creation of a defining document between all Member States. In order for AI regulations to be effective, Member States have to comply under universal terms of what's right and wrong. This document will serve as the foundation for all AI related issues in the future.

II. Cybercrimes and Human Security

Cyberspace is an important piece of infrastructure for facilitating business transactions, communications and transmitting and receiving data. This piece of infrastructure is vital for maintaining economic growth and productivity within our interconnected world. Where once our nation was isolated in our own quiet corner of the world, the internet and cyberspace bring us closer to our trade partners and allies and allow for new opportunities for investments and developments both at home and abroad.

Given the importance and reliance on the Internet for both government and civilian use, it is crucial that New Zealand ensures the continued security of internal cyberspace, as well as cooperates with her allies and trade partners to ensure this security moves beyond her borders. Cyberspace connects our geographically isolated nations to the rest of the globe and allows for easier business transactions and facilitation of trade within the global market. Cybercrime not only poses a threat to our economy but puts into jeopardy the well-being of our citizens. Crucial systems of infrastructure, intellectual property, personal information, personal privacy and sensitive information related to national security remain at risk. As the internet grows, so too do cyber threats. Though current estimates suggest that threats of cyber attacks remain low, New Zealand can no longer rely on its geographic location as a means of security in our interconnected online world.

The United Nations General Assembly adopted Resolution 74/247 on the 27th of December 2019 (Counter the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes) to establish an ad hoc intergovernmental committee of experts to counter the threat of cybercrimes. Additionally, The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime promotes long-term and sustainable capacity building in the fight against cybercrime through supporting national structures and action. Specifically, UNODC draws upon its specialized expertise on criminal justice systems response to provide technical assistance in capacity building, prevention and awareness-raising, international cooperation, and data collection, research, and analysis on cybercrime.

New Zealand commits to the continued promotion of online security through cooperation with Member States, Allies and Trade Partners to counter the threats of cybercrimes and cyberattacks. Furthermore, in cooperation with Member States, New Zealand proposes the creation of a defining document of an agreed-upon term of 'Cybercrime', as well as an agreement to better facilitate transnational prosecution and extradition processes amongst Member States for perpetrators of Cybercrimes.