



THE PRESIDENT
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

14 August 2020

Subject: Draft decision entitled, “Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes” (A/74/L.84)

Excellency,

Sequel to my letter dated 11 August 2020, in accordance with General Assembly decision 74/544 of 27 March 2020, entitled “*Procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic*” and decision 74/561 of 21 July 2020, entitled “*Extension of the procedure for taking decisions of the General Assembly during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic until the end of August 2020*”, placing the draft decision entitled “*Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes*” (A/74/L.84), and the requisite procedural decision under silence procedure until Friday, 14 August 2020, at 4:00 p.m., it is my pleasure to inform you that the silence procedure has concluded without objections.

Accordingly, the decision is considered adopted by the Assembly as decision 74/567 and is in effect from 4:01 p.m., today, Friday, 14 August 2020. The General Assembly will take note of decision 74/567 and the requisite procedural decision at its next plenary meeting to be held at the United Nations Headquarters.

I avail of this opportunity to express my solidarity with Member States who are fighting COVID-19 and extend my sincere condolences for their loss.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized, flowing script.

Tijjani Muhammad-Bande

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York



Permanent Mission
of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations



Permanent Mission
of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

New York, 4th August 2020

Excellency,

Attachment

We have the honour to forward to you the Joint Statement by the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China in connection with the adoption of the draft decision entitled "Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes" issued in document (A/74/L.84) under agenda item 107 of the General Assembly.

We should be grateful if you could enclose the present letter and attachment (explanation of position) to your subsequent note to all Member States.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Vassily NEBENZIA
Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation

ZHANG Jun
Permanent Representative
of the People's Republic of China

H.E. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande
President of the General Assembly
United Nations

New York

EXPLANATION OF POSITION

Joint statement of the Russian Federation
and the People's Republic of China

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China are strictly committed to the spirit and letter of the resolution of the General Assembly 74/274 of 27 December 2019 concerning the establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee to elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes. In this resolution New York was approved as the place for the organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee. We are convinced that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, including its organizational session, should be built on the basis of full inclusiveness (participation of all Member States without exception) and transparency of the process.

In this regard the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China note that the organizational session in New York meets the above-mentioned criteria. Taking into account the difficult situation with the COVID-19 in New York and the unacceptability for our countries of organizing sessions in virtual and hybrid formats, which do not ensure full participation of states and adherence to the UN rules of procedure, China and Russia support the proposal of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime to postpone the dates of the organizational session in New York to the next year (as early as conditions permit, but not later than 1 March 2021).

The Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China believe that any budgetary implications of the technical decision of the UN General Assembly regarding to the postponement of the organizational session of the Ad Hoc Committee to 2021 should be submitted to the Fifth Committee of the UN General Assembly for consideration and approval.