

The People's Republic of China

Positions for the International Criminal Police Organization

I. Developing an International Response to Thwart Cybercrime

Cybercrime, which includes the theft of personal data, copyright infringement, child pornography, cyber stalking, and cyberbullying, has now surpassed drug trafficking as the most lucrative global criminal venture. It is estimated that the profits of cybercrime range from \$300 billion to over a trillion dollars annually, with the cost of cybercrime increasing an alarming 78% in 2013 alone. Over 800 million identities worldwide have been compromised due to cybercrime, with approximately 20 million of those being Chinese citizens. Despite improvements in security and active government countermeasures, cybercrime continues to adapt and gain in prevalence, prompting Chinese President Xi Jinping to declare that, “[n]o Internet safety means no national security”. China believes the time is right for the world to seriously address the issue of cybercrime, particularly as it applies to transnational criminal networks.

In order to ensure a robust global economy and to protect innocent victims, China supports programs such as the Regional Working Parties on Information Technology Crime, and E/RES/2011/33, which stresses that Member States need to take action independently as well as in coordination to combat cybercrime. The program aims to disseminate the most up-to-date strategies, technology, and information about evolving criminal methods. Other existing programs that China supports include the Financial Coalition against Child Pornography and the Forum of Incidence Response and Security Teams. These programs, and others like them, aim to improve both international and national security, broaden our knowledge about methods used by cybercriminals, and protect the businesses and individuals affected by these crimes. However, these programs are not enough, and the moral and economic costs of these activities are too high to ignore. As Qi Xiangdong, president of Qihoo 360, says “[i]t is time for the authorities to highlight cybersecurity and boost their website security protection.”

To attain more efficient solutions, while also upholding international norms of sovereignty, individual nations must work on a national level towards better methods of detection and prevention against cybercrime. To that end, China has established a variety of domestic organizations, including the Public Security Bureau (PSB), and the Ministry of State Security (MSS). The PSB is responsible for internal security, including computer information networks, Internet security, and protection and management regulations. The MSS handles external security, as it is the most technically capable of keeping national and public information secure. Additionally, China has been proud to host several conferences on cybercrime, including the China Internet Security Conference of 2013, sponsored by Qihoo 360, which featured keynotes on Internet security, technical forums, product and solution demonstrations, as well as attack and defense competitions.

The People's Republic of China urges the global community to take decisive action to combat the scourge of cybercrime, while respecting the sovereignty of every Member State in allowing them to develop tactics best suited to their unique needs. To achieve this goal we call for an International Conference on Cybersecurity, to be held at the National Conference Center in Beijing. China firmly believes that this conference will allow member states to move forward with their own domestic programs, like China's MSS and PSB. Yet, we realize that funding for such programs may be cost prohibitive to some nations and urge the UN to provide grants to these nations, through the United Nations Economic and Social Council. As the sixth largest contributor to the UN General Budget, China stands ready to help shoulder the cost of this investment in ensuring global cybersecurity. Nationally, China has done much to inhibit cybercrime, including our Golden Shield Project, which monitors user activity and restricts access to certain websites. China urges member states to adopt similar versions of this project, as well as laws that enhance content control, create regulations for electronic evidence, and improve on each nations' technological impediments. The People's Republic of China understands that cybercrime is not restrained to a purely national level. Indeed, China has aided 40 countries in combating over 700 cybercriminal networks. China respects the cultural differences which lead us to unique solutions in combating cybercrime, but urges fellow member states to come together in the common interests of security, privacy, and business data protection.

II. Combating Transnational Firearms Trafficking

Every day nearly 1,500 people are killed in armed conflict, with over a half million deaths annually. As UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon states, “[i]llicit small arms remain the weapons of choice for those who seek to challenge legitimate state power, to spread fear and insecurity, or to pursue criminal goals.”. Additionally, countless women and girls in regions of conflict have either been forced into sexual slavery or raped. While the humanitarian crisis presented by arms trafficking represents the most immediate concern, the economic effects should not be understated. Armed conflict perpetuates the cycle of violence, which traps lesser developed countries in extreme poverty. Armed conflict destroys the most basic infrastructure of these nations, cutting off access to food, water, shelter, and education. Indeed, no poor and violent nation has achieved a single of the Millennium Development Goals. The true threat posed by international arms trafficking is difficult to quantify, due to the alarming fact that there is no globally agreed upon definition of “arms” and no common agreement on what types of activities constitute “arms trade”. The sad truth is that there are more international laws governing the sale of bananas than firearms.

China is proud to have served as a global leader in combating the spread of arms, supporting important agreements such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, A/RES/65/50, which provides assistance to Member States in curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and collecting trafficked small arms, and S/RES/2117, which calls for increased cooperation between the United Nations and INTERPOL in combating the spread of small arms. Yet many nations, including China, continue to fall victim to the plague of arms trafficking. The recent Kunming Massacre, carried out with illegally obtained knives, claimed the lives of 29 Chinese citizens, illustrating the immediate danger posed by illicit arms. As such, China has launched an aggressive campaign to combat the illegal arms trade within our own borders. In 2014 Chinese authorities seized over 130,000 illegal weapons, the largest such raid in our nation’s history, including 10,500 guns and 120,000 knives/swords. China also holds regular gun-surrender drives, offering cash rewards for the surrender of weapons. In 2008 one such raid yielded 79,000 guns, 1.8 million replica guns and 5.75 million bullets. Another step taken by the Chinese government has been the Firearms Control Law that took effect in 1996. This law prohibits private possession of firearms, with rare exceptions such as police officers and certain work units. China has made great strides in this area, indeed the estimated percentage of the Chinese population which owns guns remains at a low 4.9%, compared to the over 90% of gun ownership in the United States. However, the worrisome reality remains that illegal possession, manufacture, and trade of firearms does occur in China and virtually all other nations.

To promote global security and protect the stability of all nations, it is necessary for Member States to develop solutions which permanently address arms trafficking. The People’s Republic of China urges Member States to enact stronger domestic firearm laws, as it is apparent that gun crime is directly related to gun ownership and availability. Due to China’s own strict laws, the annual rate of deaths per year from gun violence is around one in 100,000 people, far below the international average, clearly illustrating the effectiveness of these laws. In addition to calling for stricter domestic laws, China also supports greater international cooperation in locating and destroying illegal firearms. To this end, China proposes an aggressive global funds for guns campaign. This international initiative would provide compensation, including funds and humanitarian assistance, for those who voluntarily surrender their arms or provide information which leads to the capture of arms traffickers. By addressing the underlying conditions of severe poverty which drive nations into conflict, the international community can promote long term peace and invest in the development of these violent nations. Such investments could be made from voluntary donations to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, which has demonstrated great success in previous programs that have established factories, farms, and other economic opportunities in conflict zones. Such a program would not only support INTERPOL’s disarmament efforts, but also promote economic opportunities in violent regions, which face a nearly 40% likelihood of falling back into conflict. By offering economic assistance INTERPOL can incentivize Member and Non-Member States alike to take action to effectively combat firearms trafficking. It is China’s hope that Member States working together can continue to make strides in minimizing the illegal arms trade.