



**SRMUN VIRTUAL 2022**  
**October 7- 8, 2022**  
**[CCPCJ\\_Virtual@srmun.org](mailto:CCPCJ_Virtual@srmun.org)**

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Virtual 2022 and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ). My name is Edgar Romero and I am honored to serve as your Director this year. I have a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs with a minor in Legal Studies. While this is my first time on staff, I have been attending SRMUN since 2019. Our committee's Assistant Director is Jacob Holt. This is also Jacob's first time on SRMUN staff, and he is currently studying for his Bachelors International Business. Together, we are looking forward to another successful virtual conference.

Founded by the United Nations' (UN) Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CCPCJ was established in 1992 to advise on criminal justice policy. The CCPCJ serves as the governing body for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and assists in setting agenda topics for ECOSOC and UN General Assembly as it relates to crime prevention.

By focusing on the mission of the CCPCJ, we have developed the following topic for delegates to discuss and work towards finding solutions for at the conference:

**I. Combating Cybercrime Against Critical Infrastructure**

This background guide provides an introduction to the committee and the topic that will be debated at SRMUN Virtual 2022. It should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, while we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topic. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference.

Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on the given topic. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit [srmun.org](http://srmun.org). **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than September 19, 2022, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Jacob and I are looking forward to serving as your dais for the CCPCJ and wish you the best of luck in your preparations. If you have any questions during the research process, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, Jacob, Secretary-General Rachael Feibelman, or SRMUN Deputy Executive Director Jordin Dickerson.

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## History of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

In 1992, the United Nations' (UN) Economic and Social Council's (ECOSOC) Resolution 1992/1 established the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) to act as one of its functional commissions, specifically tasked with issues concerning crime and criminal justice.<sup>12</sup> Resolution 1992/22 further clarified some of the mandates and priorities of the commission that include but are not limited to: the combating of national and transnational crime, economic crime and money laundering, and promoting the role of criminal law in the protection of environments and improving the fairness of criminal justice systems across Member States.<sup>3</sup> The creation of the CCPCJ replaced a previously established body, the Committee on Crime Prevention and Crime Control (CCPCC), which was created in 1971 and took a more technical approach to crime reform.<sup>4</sup> The agreement that established the CCPCJ simultaneously dissolved the CCPCC.<sup>5</sup>

The CCPCJ comprises of 40 Member States that are elected to serve three-year terms by the ECOSOC.<sup>6</sup> The 40 seats are divided and distributed between five regions for adequate representation as follows: 12 seats for African Member States, nine seats for Asian Member States, eight seats for Latin American and Caribbean Member States, four seats for Eastern European States, and the remaining seven seats going to Western European and other Member States.<sup>7</sup> To improve efficiency, ECOSOC only votes on half the seats during an election period, with the other half being voted on the following year; as a result the half of the current Member States of the CCPCJ have terms that end on December 31, 2023, with the remaining half having terms that end on December 31, 2024.<sup>8</sup> The Commission gathers for its annual session for one week during the first half of the year, with a one day reconvened session at the end of the year to address administrative and budgetary matters for the following year.<sup>9</sup>

The CCPCJ includes a Bureau and Extended Bureau, which each assist in preparing for the regular and inter-session meetings, in conjunction with the CCPCJ Secretariat.<sup>10</sup> The Bureau includes the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons, and a Rapporteur.<sup>11</sup> The Bureau is elected at the end of each reconvened session.<sup>12</sup> The Extended Bureau is comprised of the Chairperson of the five regional groups, the European Union (EU), the Group of 77, and China.<sup>13</sup>

One of the primary roles of the CCPCJ is to act as the governing body of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), thus it is also the commission's responsibility to approve the annual budget for the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Fund.<sup>14</sup> This fund is used to provide resources to Member States that require assistance in

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<sup>14</sup> "The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed March 1, 2022. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html>.

<sup>2</sup> "Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed March 1, 2022. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/19-10645\\_CCPCJ.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/19-10645_CCPCJ.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> "CCPCJ Mandate and Functions." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed March 1, 2022. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Mandate-Functions.html#:~:text=The%20Council%20has%20established%20the,crime%20prevention%20in%20urban%20areas%20](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Mandate-Functions.html#:~:text=The%20Council%20has%20established%20the,crime%20prevention%20in%20urban%20areas%20)

<sup>4</sup> "CCPCJ Mandate and Functions." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>5</sup> "CCPCJ Mandate and Functions." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>6</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Membership.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Membership.html).

<sup>7</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>8</sup> "Members of the Commission on Crime Prevention..." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_membership\\_1\\_Jan\\_2022\\_revised\\_22\\_July\\_2021.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_membership_1_Jan_2022_revised_22_July_2021.pdf).

<sup>9</sup> "Meetings in the Current Year." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Meetings-Current-Year.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Meetings-Current-Year.html).

<sup>10</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Membership.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Membership.html).

<sup>11</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>12</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>13</sup> "Membership and Bureau." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>14</sup> "CCPCJ Mandate and Functions." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. Accessed March 1, 2022.

regards to promoting crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>15</sup> The Commission also provides guidance, organizational support, and follow-up guidelines for the UNODC's United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, where ideas, research and trends in crime prevention and criminal justice are exchanged to influence national and international policy and practices.<sup>16</sup>

The work of the CCPCJ has allowed the UN to advance toward completing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 to provide peace, justice, and strong institutions. The Commission has created a forum for Member States to recognize that policy must be based on rule of law and integrity and to promote peaceful and secure development.<sup>17</sup> Factors such as crime, a weak rule of law, weak and unjust criminal justice systems have been identified as a threat to those goals found in the SDG 16. During the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2015, the Congress, with the CCPCJ acting as a preparatory body, passed the Doha Declaration.<sup>18</sup> The Doha Declaration acknowledges the correlations between sustainable development and rule of law and encourages Member States to further utilize global frameworks intended to prevent and combat various forms of crime as well as encourage effective and just criminal justice systems with hopes to advance the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.<sup>19</sup>

Earlier this year, the CCPCJ held a three-day session on crimes that affect the environment.<sup>20</sup> The session focused on three pillars: preventing environmental crimes, combating environmental crimes, and strengthening international cooperation to address those crimes.<sup>21</sup> In its most recent session, held May 16-20, 2022, the CCPCJ hosted over 133 Member States, 13 International Governmental Organizations (IGOs), and 55 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Vienna, Austria.<sup>22</sup> The Commission adopted three resolutions covering topics such as protecting children from sexual exploitation and abuse, preventing, and combating illicit trafficking in wildlife, and reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and reintegration.<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> "Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice." *PeaceWomen*, February 13, 2015.

<http://peacewomen.org/content/commission-crime-prevention-and-criminal-justice#:~:text=The%20Commission%20acts%20as%20the,prevention%20and%20criminal%20justice%20worldwide>.

<sup>16</sup> "Crime Congress - About." *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/crimecongress/about.html>.

<sup>17</sup> "Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=210&menu=3170>. Accessed March 1, 2022.

<sup>18</sup> "Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and ...," *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*.

[https://www.unodc.org/documents/congress//Declaration/V1504151\\_English.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/congress//Declaration/V1504151_English.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> "Doha Declaration on Integrating Crime Prevention and ...," *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>20</sup> "2022 CCPCJ Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31\\_Session\\_2022/ccpcj-thematic-discussions\\_crimes-that-affect-environment.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/session/31_Session_2022/ccpcj-thematic-discussions_crimes-that-affect-environment.html)

<sup>21</sup> "2022 CCPCJ Expert Discussions on Crimes that Affect the Environment," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*,

<sup>22</sup> "CCPCJ Newsletter Jan-June 2022," *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*, [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND\\_CCPCJ\\_joint/newsletter/CCPCJ\\_newsletter\\_Jan-June\\_2022.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CND_CCPCJ_joint/newsletter/CCPCJ_newsletter_Jan-June_2022.pdf). Accessed Aug 1, 2022.

<sup>23</sup> "CCPCJ Newsletter Jan-June 2022," *Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice*.

## I. Combating Cybercrime Against Critical Infrastructure

### *Introduction*

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) categorizes cybercrime as an evolving form of transnational crime that takes place in the border-less realm of cyberspace and is compounded by the increasing involvement of organized crime groups.<sup>24</sup> The nature of cybercrime is also not strictly defined due to the ever-increasing availability of internet access.<sup>25</sup> Using the internet as a medium, cybercriminals can initiate attacks from any number of locations allowing them to maintain anonymity.<sup>26</sup> Factors such as these allow cybercrime and cyberattacks to have no real international definition, but attacks do usually fall into categories such as, offenses against confidentiality, integrity, and availability of computer data systems; computer related offenses; content related offense; and lastly offenses related to infringements of copyright and related rights.<sup>27</sup> Cybercrime is a continuing drain on the global economy amounting to an estimated USD 50 Billion annually.<sup>28</sup>

Similarly critical infrastructure does not have a firm international definition. According to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) resolution S/RES/2341 (2017), “each State determines what constitutes its critical infrastructure, and how to effectively protect it from terrorist attack.”<sup>29</sup> With each Member State deciding what constitutes critical infrastructure there is a large sector of potential targets for cyber criminals.<sup>30</sup> This sector can include transportation, energy, agriculture, etc.<sup>31</sup> Each of these sub sectors can make up critical infrastructure requiring Member States to take a diversified look at potential actions.<sup>32</sup> A real international definition for critical infrastructure is required for effective and cohesive policy that protects that infrastructure; otherwise all future policy will lack proper scope of the problem.<sup>33</sup> According to E/1992/SR42, the United Nations (UN) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) mandate requires “facilitating the planning, coordination, and implementation of practical activities in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.”<sup>34</sup> Therefore, cybercrime falls under the jurisdiction of the UNODC and more specifically the CCPCJ as the UN’s policy making body in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.<sup>35</sup>

### *History*

Cybercrime is a relatively recent development that came alongside the advent of computers and the internet. The continued development of web-based technologies has provided new avenues of attack for cybercriminals.<sup>36</sup> These circumstances facilitated the birth of the cybersecurity industry which truly began with the development of the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET).<sup>37</sup> This was the connectivity network that preceded the internet. A decade later, a programmer released a worm capable of disabling thousands of computers on the

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<sup>24</sup> “Global Programme on Cybercrime,” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*, July 12, 2022, <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/cybercrime/global-programme-cybercrime.html>

<sup>25</sup> “Global Programme on Cybercrime,” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>26</sup> “Global Programme on Cybercrime,” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>27</sup> “Global Programme on Cybercrime,” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>28</sup> Author(s) Chris Hale. “Cybercrime: Facts & Figures Concerning This Global Dilemma.” *Cybercrime: Facts & Figures Concerning This Global Dilemma* | Office of Justice Programs. Accessed July 12, 2022. <https://www.ojp.gov/ncjrs/virtual-library/abstracts/cybercrime-facts-figures-concerning-global-dilemma>.

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2341 (2017), Resolution 2341, S/RES/2341 (2017), February 13, 2017 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/858856?ln=en>

<sup>30</sup> United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2341 (2017), Resolution 2341.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2341 (2017), Resolution 2341.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2341 (2017), Resolution 2341.

<sup>33</sup> United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2341 (2017), Resolution 2341.

<sup>34</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Resolution 1992/22, Provisional summary record of the 41st meeting, held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 30 July 1992: Economic and Social Council, substantive session of 1992, E/1992/SR.41, July, 30, 1992, <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/152227?ln=en>

<sup>35</sup> “The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.” *United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime* <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CCPCJ/index.html>.

<sup>36</sup> “History of Cyber Security.” *Cyber Security Degree*, June 23, 2021. <https://cyber-security.degree/resources/history-of-cyber-security/#:~:text=The%20true%20birth%20of%20cybersecurity,to%20move%20over%20a%20network>

<sup>37</sup> “History of Cyber Security.” *Cyber Security Degree*.

ARPANET.<sup>38</sup> The worm provided one of the first looks into the future of cyberattacks and consequently cybersecurity. However, it was only after cybercriminals took action that Member States recognized the damage they could be inflicted. One such attack took place in 1986 when a German hacker used an internet gateway to gain access to approximately 400 United States' (US) military computers; the hacker then attempted to sell the information he found to a foreign government.<sup>39</sup> This attack provoked heightened cyber security including commercial antivirus products, which were released 1987.<sup>40</sup>

The international community was even slower to form a bulwark against cybercrime. It wasn't until 2001 that the Budapest Convention was ratified; the first international treaty to address crimes committed through the internet and violations of network security.<sup>41</sup> The Cybercrime Convention Committee of the Council of Europe was created in order to provide guidance to Member States that have signed or ratified the Budapest Convention.<sup>42</sup> The committee provides legal framework that includes: substantive criminal law for offenses such as illegal access, child pornography, and corporate liability; procedural law to obtain evidence and investigate; and international cooperation policies.<sup>43</sup> The main strength of The Cybercrime Convention Committee is that it serves as a forum to share emerging cybersecurity and cybercrime threats to the international community and explore new solutions.<sup>44</sup> Furthermore, Members of international organizations such as INTERPOL, International Telecommunication Union, UNODC and the African Union Commission are also invited as observers.<sup>45</sup> The convention does not promote the joining of nongovernmental organizations (NGOs); rather the governmental organizations who are members provide access to NGOs to whom they have jurisdiction: such as internet service providers.<sup>46</sup>

### ***Current Situation***

Cybercrime has only continued to grow since its inception decades ago. Governments in 2021 saw an increase of 1,885 percent in ransomware attacks, and the healthcare industry faced a 755-percent increase in those attacks according to American Cybersecurity company SonicWall.<sup>47</sup> These figures illustrate the increased risk that many major industries face, as long as they have the capital to pay off hackers, they will be targets for both ransomware and other malicious programs.<sup>48</sup> Oftentimes the industries affected are a part of the critical infrastructure sector for example, "JBS USA, the world's largest meat supplier, was attacked and paid an USD 11 Million ransom in May 2021 in Bitcoin to prevent further disruption, according to CNET."<sup>49</sup> Disruptions of resource production and distribution can devastate communities where those resources are scarce.<sup>50</sup> The multiplying number of cyberattacks can also be attributed to a new group of perpetrators; government backed hackers.<sup>51</sup> For example, in 2010, a

<sup>38</sup> "Sans ICS." SANS Industrial Control Systems Security Blog | Brief History of Cyber Attacks | SANS Institute, June 20, 2022. <https://www.sans.org/blog/brief-history-of-cyber-attacks/>.

<sup>39</sup> "History of Cyber Security." Cyber Security Degree.

<sup>40</sup> "History of Cyber Security." Cyber Security Degree.

<sup>41</sup> "Convention on Cybercrime." Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights. Accessed June 17, 2022. <https://www.coe.int/en/web/impact-convention-human-rights/convention-on-cybercrime#/>.

<sup>42</sup> "Convention on Cybercrime." Impact of the European Convention on Human Rights. Accessed June 17, 2022.

<sup>43</sup> "The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime: Benefits and Impact in Practice." Strasbourg: The Council of Europe, July 13, 2020.

<sup>44</sup> "The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime: Benefits and Impact in Practice." Strasbourg: The Council of Europe, July 13, 2020.

<sup>45</sup> "Council of Europe Giving Guidance on the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime." CCDCOE. Accessed June 16, 2022. <https://ccdcoe.org/incyber-articles/council-of-europe-giving-guidance-on-the-budapest-convention-on-cybercrime/>.

<sup>46</sup> "The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime: Benefits and Impact in Practice." Strasbourg: The Council of Europe, July 13, 2020.

<sup>47</sup> Taylor, Amiah. "There's a Huge Surge in Hackers Holding Data for Ransom, and Experts Want Everyone to Take These Steps." Fortune. Fortune, February 18, 2022. <https://fortune.com/2022/02/17/ransomware-attacks-surge-2021-report/#:~:text=Governments%20worldwide%20saw%20a%201%2C885,SonicWall%2C%20an%20internet%20cyberscurity%20company>.

<sup>48</sup> Taylor, Amiah. "There's a Huge Surge in Hackers Holding Data for Ransom, and Experts Want Everyone to Take These Steps." Fortune.

<sup>49</sup> Taylor, Amiah. "There's a Huge Surge in Hackers Holding Data for Ransom, and Experts Want Everyone to Take These Steps."

<sup>50</sup> Taylor, Amiah. "There's a Huge Surge in Hackers Holding Data for Ransom, and Experts Want Everyone to Take These Steps."

<sup>51</sup> Schneier, Bruce. "Cyberconflicts and National Security," *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/cyberconflicts-and-national-security>.

computer worm did severe damage to a uranium enrichment facility in the Member State of Iran.<sup>52</sup> Upon further investigation, it was determined that this highly sophisticated worm required the resources to develop and execute that only a Member State sponsor could provide.<sup>53</sup> Further investigation pointed to certain Member States as designers and deployers of the worm, even though no Member has taken credit for it.<sup>54</sup> Highly sophisticated digital breaches such as this one are not in short supply, they often occur during times of tension between two Member States.<sup>55</sup> Another example can be found in 2007, when there was a large number of “denial-of-service” cyberattacks against Estonian websites during a time of tension between Estonia and allegedly another Member State, speculated to have been from the Russian Federation.<sup>56</sup> These attacks are some of the more recent that potentially involve political motives.

Whether the motivation is profit, politics, or activism, the rapid increase in cyberattacks has cost the world an estimated USD 6 Trillion in 2021, alone.<sup>57</sup> Figures such as these are indicators of just how much of a threat cybercrime has become and will remain.<sup>58</sup> International action to halt cybercrime has not been absent in fact, draft resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14 from the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) recalls the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges, which calls for an expert group to conduct a comprehensive study of the problem of cybercrime and responses to it by Member States, the international community, and the private sector.<sup>59</sup> The formation and strengthening of groups such as the one formed by the Salvador Declaration are instrumental in combating rising cybercrime.<sup>60</sup> Studying practices employed to combat cybercrime is necessary to develop a framework that can be promoted to the international community.<sup>61</sup> If cybercrimes are left unanswered it can only lead to heightened tensions between Member States that defend against cyberattack and seek retribution.<sup>62</sup> An age of cyberwarfare must be avoided if Member States wish to cultivate a productive and peaceful international community.<sup>63</sup>

### *Actions Taken by the United Nations*

Following an increased need for guidance regarding how to mitigate and handle the increased risks that were arising with new technologies, the UN created the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT).<sup>64</sup> The UNOCT was tasked to create and implement new initiatives to address the increased risk of terrorist organizations misusing technologies against Member States and organizations.<sup>65</sup> The Cybersecurity and New Technologies program was specifically created to advance collaborative efforts between Member States and private organizations regarding the protection of critical infrastructures from cyber-attacks.<sup>66</sup> Although this program makes protecting critical infrastructures a priority, it promotes the collection of information through open sources to prevent online terrorism while also considering the need to respect human rights.

<sup>52</sup> Schneier, Bruce. “Cyberconflicts and National Security.”

<sup>53</sup> Schneier, Bruce. “Cyberconflicts and National Security.”

<sup>54</sup> Schneier, Bruce. “Cyberconflicts and National Security.”

<sup>55</sup> Schneier, Bruce. “Cyberconflicts and National Security.”

<sup>56</sup> Schneier, Bruce. “Cyberconflicts and National Security.”

<sup>57</sup> Jeffery, Lynsey, and Vignesh Ramachandran. “Why Ransomware Attacks Are on the Rise - and What Can Be Done to Stop Them.” PBS. Public Broadcasting Service, July 8, 2021. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/why-ransomware-attacks-are-on-the-rise-and-what-can-be-done-to-stop-them>.

<sup>58</sup> Jeffery, Lynsey, and Vignesh Ramachandran. “Why Ransomware Attacks Are on the Rise - and What Can Be Done to Stop Them.”

<sup>59</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Draft Resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14, Strengthening international cooperation to combat cybercrime: draft resolution / [submitted by] Brazil, China, India, Russian Federation and South Africa, E/CN.15/2013/L.14, April, 2, 2013 <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/747066?ln=en>

<sup>60</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Draft Resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14.

<sup>61</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Draft Resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14.

<sup>62</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Draft Resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14.

<sup>63</sup> United Nations Economic and Social Council, Draft Resolution E/CN.15/2013/L.14.

<sup>64</sup> “Cybersecurity | Office of Counter-Terrorism,” *United Nations*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/programme-projects/cybersecurity>.

<sup>65</sup> “Cybersecurity | Office of Counter-Terrorism,” *United Nations*.

<sup>66</sup> “Cybersecurity | Office of Counter-Terrorism.”

In 2010, the 12<sup>th</sup> United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World.<sup>67</sup> This resolution provided recommendations for the promotion of capacity building of authorities within Member States to improve the detection, prevention, and prosecution of new evolving crime such as cybercrime.<sup>68</sup> In addition, the resolution invited the CCPCJ to work with an intergovernmental group to study cybercrime and the responses by Member States and the private sector with hopes of not only strengthening but creating new domestic and international legal frameworks in response to cybercrime.<sup>69</sup> This open-ended group was created in 2011 and has since had seven meetings between 2011 and 2021 in which experts gather for various days to study and evaluate ongoing responses to combating cybercrime.<sup>70</sup> At the fourth meeting which occurred in 2018, the expert group adopted a work plan that would be ongoing from 2018 until 2021 in which they would focus on specific areas such as legal frameworks, law enforcement investigations into electronic evidence and criminal justice, international cooperation and by the end of the work plan in 2021, discuss future work for the expert group.<sup>71</sup> Furthermore, in 2017, United Nations Counter Terrorism Centre (UNCT) held a workshop in Mongolia regarding the protection of critical infrastructures from Terrorists Cyber Attacks.<sup>72</sup> This workshop included counter terrorism and law enforcement agencies, cybersecurity organizations, and leaders from critical industries such as energy, finance and energy were all in attendance to increase awareness of terrorist cyber-threats while exploring new methods for Member States, the private sector and international organizations to develop new frameworks and collaboration to protect critical infrastructures and industries.<sup>73</sup>

That same year, the UNSC passed Resolution 2341 (2017) that directed the Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) to work the Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to look at existing efforts from Member States in regards to the protection of critical infrastructure in order to identify weakness and areas of improvement as well as identifying best practices.<sup>74</sup> To provide further support to Security Resolution 2341 (2017), INTERPOL and the UNOCT developed “*The Protection of Critical Infrastructures against Terrorist Attacks: Compendium of Good Practices*” in order to provide guidance on the development good practices to secure critical infrastructures from terrorist attack.<sup>75</sup> This compendium encompasses various aspects to the protection and the challenges that come with protecting Critical Infrastructures (CIs), such as national policies and management strategies, establishing criminal responsibility, information sharing, facilitating international cooperation and technical and financial assistance.<sup>76</sup>

UNSC Resolution 2354 (2017) was created with the goal of creating a comprehensive international framework on how the international community can combat the widespread extremist messages that specifically target vulnerable populations. This resolution also directs the Counter Terrorism Committee to facilitate partnerships between public and private sectors with the assistance of the CTED.<sup>77</sup> The CCPCJ directed their focus towards cybercrime as the

<sup>67</sup> “Twelfth Distr.: General United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and ...,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/documents/crime-congress/12th-Crime-Congress/Documents/A\\_CONF.213\\_18/V1053828e.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/crime-congress/12th-Crime-Congress/Documents/A_CONF.213_18/V1053828e.pdf).

<sup>68</sup> “Twelfth Distr.: General United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and ...,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>69</sup> “Twelfth Distr.: General United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and ...,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>70</sup> “Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group to Conduct a Comprehensive Study of the Problem of cybercrime\_2021.” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*. [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/open-ended-intergovernmental-expert-group-to-conduct-a-comprehensive-study-of-the-problem-of-cybercrime\\_2021.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/open-ended-intergovernmental-expert-group-to-conduct-a-comprehensive-study-of-the-problem-of-cybercrime_2021.html).

<sup>71</sup> “Chair’s Proposal for the 2018–2021 Work Plan of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group” <https://www.unodc.org/documents/organized-crime/cybercrime/cybercrime-april-2018/V1800915.pdf>.

<sup>72</sup> “Protecting National Critical Infrastructure from Terrorists’ Cyber-Attacks in Mongolia | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/events/protecting-national-critical-infrastructure-from-terrorists-cyber-attacks-mongolia>.

<sup>73</sup> “Protecting National Critical Infrastructure from Terrorists’ Cyber-Attacks in Mongolia | Office of Counter-Terrorism.” *United Nations*.

<sup>74</sup> “United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED).” *United Nations*. [https://www.un.org/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil.ctc/files/ctc\\_cted\\_factsheet\\_ict\\_may\\_2021.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil.ctc/files/ctc_cted_factsheet_ict_may_2021.pdf).

<sup>75</sup> “The Protection of Critical Infrastructures against Terrorist Attacks ...,” *United Nations*. [https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil.ctc/files/documents/2021/Jan/compendium\\_of\\_good\\_practices\\_eng.pdf](https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil.ctc/files/documents/2021/Jan/compendium_of_good_practices_eng.pdf).

<sup>76</sup> “The Protection of Critical Infrastructures against Terrorist Attacks ...,” *United Nations*.

<sup>77</sup> “Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution on Countering Terrorist Narratives | Security Council - Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).” *United Nations*. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/news/security-council-unanimously-adopts-resolution-countering-terrorist-narratives>.

CCPCJ's 2022 session theme was cybercrime, calling for increased use of digital evidence for criminal justice as well as combating cybercrime.<sup>78</sup> Although the committee did not create new frameworks on cybercrime and defense, there was a great focus on the use of digital evidence to combat cybercrime, especially the abuse and exploitation of minors.<sup>79</sup> Following the 2022 session, it was left to the UN Ad Hoc Committee to continue discussions with hopes to create future legal frameworks regarding cybercrime in the international community.

### ***Conclusion***

The rapid advancement and increased investment in technology and cyberspace has not only allowed Member States to operate and interact more efficiently, but at the same time created new avenues for crime to occur and new methods for critical infrastructures to be disrupted by terrorists and organized crime. It is clear that the United Nations sees cybercrime as a major threat to the international community through the various task forces and resolutions that have been created within the past few decades to specifically address and mitigate this threat. The CCPCJ has only recently become more involved in combating cybercrime in collaboration with other bodies within the UN and the CCPCJ could play an integral role in combating cybercrime regarding the collection of online data and proposals for potential legal frameworks.

### ***Committee Directive***

Considering the UN's existing frameworks and resolutions; solutions proposed should analyze existing resolutions and international frameworks to identify key successes as well as limitations that could be resolved to fit all Member States and organizations. It is important for delegates to also take into consideration the varying needs of protection between Member States and what they consider to be Critical Infrastructures. Delegates should look at opportunities for Member States to collaborate with the private sector to address all risks that cybercrime poses to critical infrastructure. Given that it is not atypical for private entities to have control over certain critical infrastructures as well as the fact that the private sector can span across multiple Member States, this collaboration would allow for the implementation of solutions across various Member States while also offsetting costs that may be associated with increased investment in combating cybercrime. However, it is fundamental that delegates consider the importance of protecting the sovereignty of Member States when proposing new frameworks and partnerships. In addition, although protecting critical infrastructures is of great importance, it is crucial that the rights of individuals are adequately protected and are not infringed upon.

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<sup>78</sup> "CCPCJ Makes Some Progress despite Underlying Challenges," *Global Initiative*, May 30, 2022.  
<https://globalinitiative.net/analysis/31st-ccpcj/>.

<sup>79</sup> "Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform." *United Nations*. United Nations. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=30022&nr=3239&menu=3170>.