

Delegation from the Republic of Finland Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the General Assembly are Artificial Intelligence and the International System and Cybercrimes and Human Security. The Republic of Finland recognizes the need for international cooperation in these areas and looks forward to discussing these topics at conference and looks forward to collaborating with fellow Member States in these areas.

I. Artificial Intelligence and the International System

With the global Artificial Intelligence (AI) industry set to grow by 15% annually for the next decade and become one of the largest global industries the need for regulation is pressing to assure AI is used in a sustainable and lawful manner conducive to the previous normative and legal frameworks of the international system. The AI industry is also set to account for approximately 30% of Finland's projected economic growth over the next decade. Finland and the world at large see the necessity in making sure AI is developed in a way that is conducive to the existing international system and provides for inclusive economic growth within Member States. AI poses an immense opportunity for Member States to increase their economic growth and allow for new sustainable development to deal with social ills like reducing economic inequality between and within Member States which is in line with reports that AI can be used to accelerate or achieve all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Of course, AI can also be used for criminal purposes and make crimes more sophisticated such that they are more difficult to deter and prosecute and this also something Member States must be wary of. With this in mind, Finland and the international community at large should care about AI both for the risks and opportunities it presents.

As noted in a recent conference hosted by United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on this topic, ECOSOC has noted the potential for AI to "break down barriers" in various forms such as the gender pay gap and has encouraged Member States to use AI to complete and reach their SDG targets by engaging in multilateral partnership with the private sector, civil society and technological specialists/technical experts to develop sound policy and allow for a truly global AI development that includes less-developed Member States. This sentiment was further echoed in the planned UN 2024 "AI for Good" which focuses on the SDGs and ability to use AI to solve shared global problems which Finland is sending representatives to and in more specific conferences like the 2022 UN "AI for Health" conference in partnership with the International Telegraph Union (ITU) and World Health Organization (WHO) which Finland hosted. Finland has also signed onto more regulatory international measures like the Declaration on Responsible Military Use of Artificial Intelligence and Autonomy to ensure AI is not used in war crimes and atrocities. Regionally Finland has worked with the European Union (EU) to develop safe, ethical, and sustainable guidelines for the use and development of AI while promoting its development and growth within the EU through the Artificial Intelligence Act to bring stability and ethical guidelines to the use of AI in the international system. Domestically, Finland has used AI to the fullest and through the national Artificial Intelligence 4.0 programme to encourage new and equitable economic growth while pushing for continuing innovation through supports like AI industrial clusters to accelerate growth and development.

Finland will continue to work in this area through domestic measures and strategies alongside regional and international partnerships to encourage sustainable and sound partnerships through provision of support by the private sector, civil society, technical society and government within and between Member States with a goal of reducing social and economic inequality and promoting fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for the SDGs which is why Finland is going to advance and hopefully complete the process to join the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence. The partnership will help Finland advance its international goals in this area and cultivate meaningful multilateral partnership to oversee the global implementation of these goals and encourages other Member States to do the same. Finland will also continue to contribute to UN initiatives and conferences on this topic to further strengthen the goal of making AI development beneficial, sustainable, and equitable. Furthermore, Finland is looking towards regulatory measures on AI to make sure it does not impede these goals or international norms like human and civil rights and make sure rights abusers and violators do not use AI to obfuscate and further their violations and crimes.

II. Cybercrimes and Human Security

With global cybercrime costing the world economy 9.5 Trillion USD and set to cost even more in the coming decade the need to combat cybercrime and safeguard human security is growing for the UN and the international community. Even within Finland cybercrime and its rate of victimization are growing. Cybercrime poses a unique challenge as the law and legal systems of Member States must catch up to these technologically advanced crimes which thus far proves to fall behind the global and cross-jurisdictional nature of cybercrime. Cybercrimes pose a risk to human security as they pose risk to confidentiality of information which threatens the right to privacy, and they pose a significant risk for online financial transactions such as with phishing and account hijacking which threaten economic security and can even lead to the release of confidential personal information which compromises personal security and notably threatens progress on SDG 16 to Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels . With all these threats posed by cybersecurity Finnish citizens face decreasing online security and uncertainty regarding their safety online which has deleterious effects on the growing online economy and legal rights of Finnish citizens who face predation by cybercriminals. Based on this threat Finland believes that the international should pursue further action in this area to combat and deter cybercrime.

Internationally, ECOSOC has hosted events and the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes to come towards a UN cybercrime treaty to empower the UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to better prosecute and deter cybercrime on a global scale in line with the intent of UN resolution A/RES/75/282 on Countering the use of information and communications technologies for criminal purposes which Finland has participated in. Regionally the EU has created the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime to provide for a framework to facilitate greater regional cooperation against cybercrime within the EU by facilitating information sharing and real-time joint investigations through the protocols on enhanced cooperation. Alongside this the EU Cyber Resilience Act acts to increase cyber security regionally by mandating security features meant to deter or prevent cybercrime. Finland also cooperates with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in their NATO Partnership for Peace program of which Finland cooperates with to increase cyber security and combat cybercrime among NATO Member States. Domestically Finland has laws against cybercrimes, particularly those that involve coercive measures and attacks on information systems as stated in the Finnish penal code as per (law 540/2007) and (law 578/2015) which have also been revised to allow for compliance and adherence specifically to EU regulation and the Budapest convention while at the same time putting more resources and training to relevant Finnish law enforcement agencies to better detect cybercrime and bring cybercriminals to justice.

Finland will continue work in this area with other Member States and proposes increased cooperation among Member States in this area through information sharing and further allowance of cross-jurisdiction prosecution and arrest of cybercriminals. Finland also encourages Member States to continue work with the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes which Finland will itself continue to work with towards the goal of reaching a binding international treaty on cybercrime to correspond to the international nature of cybercrime. Finland will also work towards further revision and modernization of the Finnish penal code to accurately address the nature and consequences of cybercrime within Finland and wants to encourage other Member States to do the same in a way that properly addresses the sophisticated and cross-jurisdictional nature of cybercrime. Finland also encourages Member States to view cybercrime as a threat to reaching the 2030 goals for the SDGs since cybersecurity and cyber-stability are needed for sustainable human-centred modern development which Finland will work towards by participating in and sponsoring future international conferences, forums, and treaties on cybercrime with a human development focus and encourages other member states to