

**Derechos Digitales' Statement in the First session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Elaborate a Comprehensive International Convention on Countering the Use of Information and Communications Technologies for Criminal Purposes**

March 8, 2022 – Michel Roberto de Souza - *Item 7 - Discussion and decision-making on the mode of work of the Ad Hoc Committee during subsequent sessions and interseccional periods*

Dear Madame Chair,

Derechos Digitales welcomes the opportunity to participate in this session about the roadmap and mode of work, but also the opportunity to engage and participate in the past days in this First session of the Ad Hoc Committee. On this International Women's Day, we would like to congratulate Madame Chair in the name of all the women who show us their daily fight for human rights and are our inspiration.

We would like to emphasize the importance of civil society participation in these sessions and discussions. Providing meaningful participation can allow better evaluation and civil society to collaborate with this process with different perspectives.

As supported by some Member States, we ask that the revised documents be made available for stakeholders and request the arrangements to allow all stakeholders to be present in the substantive sessions and in the Intersessionals to ensure our perspectives are taken into consideration.

We support the chapter-to-chapter approach as proposed by Madame Chair, as it is a more inclusive mode of work and sufficient time should be provided for the readings to keep in spirit with consensus decision making and collaboration process.

Third, regarding intersessional we would like to provide some suggestions. We support and encourage the Intersessionals with non-government stakeholders, as an opportunity to increase participation with multiple views. In this sense, we also encourage member states to fully participate in the Intersessionals, allowing a good opportunity for a constructive dialogue.

We also encourage AHC to provide more information regarding the dates and deadlines related to intersessional meetings, since the first Intersessional is about to happen in the next few weeks.

We encourage AHC to provide more clarification about civil society organizations in making written comments about the Member States contributions on the chapters to be discussed in the following sessions. For example, the first Intersessional can be scheduled one week before the deadline to Member States to submit their contributions, which would give little time for analysis and adaptation in relation to the multiple views and contributions of civil society.

Thank you Madame Chair.