

Cairo Declaration against Cybercrime 2007

Some four hundred representatives from public and private sector institutions from the Arab region and other countries, and from non-governmental organizations and international bodies participated in the first regional conference on cybercrime held in Cairo on 26/27 November 2007.

The Conference was held under the auspices of HE Prof. Dr. Ahmed Fathy Sorour, Speaker of Parliament of Egypt, and opened by HE Dr. Tarek Kamel, Minister of Communication and Information Technology. It was organized by the Egyptian Association for the Prevention of Information and Internet Crimes and supported by the Information Technology Industry Development Agency (ITIDA), the Council of Europe, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Microsoft, Ain Shams University, IRIS, EASCIA and other partners.

At the closure of the event, participants adopted the following declaration:

With regard to cybercrime legislation and enforcement

Participants note with appreciation the efforts underway in Egypt and other countries of the Arab region with regard to the strengthening of cybercrime legislation. These efforts should be given high priority and completed as soon as possible in order to protect societies in this region from the threat of cybercrime.

The Budapest Convention (2001) on Cybercrime is recognized as the global guideline for the development of cybercrime legislation. Countries of the Arab region are encouraged to make use of this model when preparing substantive and procedural laws.

Criminal proceedings against cybercrime require specific skill and resources. Countries of the region are encouraged to set up specialized units for cybercrime investigations, as well as ensure that prosecutors and judges are sufficiently trained.

In order to allow immediate reactions to attacks against critical information and communication systems, Egypt and other countries of the Arab region should consider establishing Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

With regard to the sexual exploitation and abuse of children

Child pornography and the sexual abuse of children on the internet are of major concern. The participants noted with appreciation the fact that the Child Act in Egypt and other countries of the region is being modified to include criminalizing child pornography in line with Article 9 of the Convention on Cybercrime.

Countries should also adopt procedural legislation for the purpose of child pornography investigations as well as child-friendly proceedings.

Countries should support the creation of national hotlines to which reports of illegal or harmful online content can be made by the public or other concerned entities.

National cybercrime police units, prosecution services and the judiciary should be provided with ongoing national or international educational and training opportunities on child pornography and abuse related offenses.

With regard to public-private partnerships

Public-private partnerships against cybercrime are encouraged in the field of enforcement, education and legislation. This partnership should observe the security, integrity and protection of data and systems that law enforcement require.

Governments should make use of the knowledge available in the ICT industry with regard to cybercrime threats and trends as well as new business models.

Law enforcement need to cooperate with service providers in the investigation of cybercrimes. The powers of law enforcement bodies should be defined in the procedural laws of each country. In addition, service providers and law enforcement need to develop procedures, routines and capabilities to cooperate effectively with each other within clearly defined limits. The preparation of guidelines for such cooperation by a current working group under the auspices of the Council of Europe is welcome and will also be helpful for countries of the Arab region.

Law enforcement authorities may benefit from training offered by industry and should make use of such opportunities.

The ICT industry should use its position to raise awareness and education among customers in order to prevent cybercrime.

With regard to regional and international cooperation

In order to promote consistent approaches against cybercrime in the Arab region, consideration should be given to setting up a Forum for Arab countries. This forum may secure the exchange of information and experiences, provide consultancy and training, further the forum may be able to hold annual meetings to update the experts of the region with the new developments in the field.

The Budapest Convention (2001) offers a framework for efficient international cooperation in cybercrime matters. Egypt and other countries of the Arab region may want to consider accession to this treaty in order to allow them to fully cooperate against transnational cybercrime.

Countries of the Arab region should consider establishing contact points available 24 hours per day, seven days per week to facilitate urgent international investigations involving electronic evidence, and joining the network of contact points of the G8 and the Council of Europe.

Cairo, 27 November 2007