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**GLOBAL
INITIATIVE**
AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL
ORGANIZED CRIME

FROM PAPER TO PROTECTION: REALIZING THE PROMISE OF THE HANOI CONVENTION - OPPORTUNITIES, RISKS AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PATHWAYS

THE UN CONVENTION AGAINST CYBERCRIME SIGNING CEREMONY AND HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE

26 OCTOBER 2025
13:00 - 14:00

Room: R202
National Conference
Center, Thang Long
Avenue, Tu Liem Ward,
Hanoi



UK Government



Australian Government

The signing ceremony of the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime in Hanoi represents a milestone in international efforts to address the growing threat of cybercrime. Yet signing is only the beginning. The Convention's impact will depend on how it is implemented at the national level, across regions and within complex digital ecosystems. Key questions remain about capability readiness, alignment with human rights standards and how governments, civil society, the private sector and academia can collaborate to ensure the Convention is effective and inclusive.

This side event, made possible due to the generous support of the Government of Canada, provides a platform for multi-stakeholder dialogue on how to move from agreement to action. It will focus on practical implementation challenges and opportunities, especially in tackling transnational scams and fraud, which are among the fastest growing and most damaging forms of cybercrime globally. Insights from the Global Organized Crime Index signal the escalation of cybercrime and its integration into transnational illicit economies. This highlights an urgency to translate the Convention's commitments into coordinated responses.

The panel will explore how the Convention can be utilized as a useful tool for operational cooperation. It will identify implementation priorities and promote a shared understanding of the roles that different sectors can play in advancing effective, inclusive and accountable approaches to combating cybercrime.

THEMATIC DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Operationalizing the Convention:** How can stakeholders use the Convention to upskill their approach in dealing with scams, fraud and other cybercrimes, which are increasingly transnational?
- **Safeguarding rights and ensuring accountability:** What are the key human rights concerns in cybercrime enforcement, and how can states integrate safeguards, transparency and accountability into implementation?
- **Opportunities and risks for the region and the world:** What does the Convention mean for regional cooperation, and what political, technical or normative challenges could arise in translating global commitments into local action?

PANEL

- **Paul Williams**, Deputy Director, International Crime and Counterterrorism Policy, Global Affairs Canada
- **Robert Sanchez Paguia**, Division Chief, International Cooperation on Cybercrime Division, CICC, Philippines
- **Lim May-Ann** Executive Director, Coalition for Cybersecurity in Asia Pacific (CCAPAC), and Emeritus Director, Asia Cloud Computing Association (ACCA)
- **Helena Yixin Huang**, Associate Research Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, Singapore
- **Filipe Batiwale**, Commissioner, Online Safety Commission, Fiji
- **Ian Tennant**, Director of Multilateral Engagement, GI-TOC
- **Andy Whittaker**, Director, Cyber Policy, UK FCDO
- Moderation – **Louise Taylor**, Director, Asia-Pacific Observatory, GI-TOC