

Hanoi Convention on Cybercrime (United Nations Convention against Cybercrime)

Event Title: Hanoi Convention on Cybercrime (United Nations Convention against Cybercrime)

Date: September 2025

Venue: Hanoi, Vietnam

Organizer: United Nations, in cooperation with the Government of Viet Nam

The Hanoi Convention on Cybercrime represents a landmark multilateral effort to strengthen international cooperation, legal frameworks, and capacity building to address cybercrime in an increasingly digital and interconnected world. Convened in Hanoi, the convention brought together governments, international organizations, civil society, youth representatives, and technical experts to advance dialogue on combating cybercrime while safeguarding human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law.



1. Background and Context

The Hanoi Convention builds upon years of intergovernmental negotiations aimed at developing a comprehensive United Nations Convention against Cybercrime. As digital technologies expand across all sectors of society, cybercrime has emerged as a transnational challenge affecting economic security, public trust, critical infrastructure, and individual rights. The Hanoi gathering served as a pivotal platform to consolidate global consensus, share national experiences, and emphasize balanced approaches that address security concerns alongside privacy and human rights protections.

2. Goal

The primary goal of the Hanoi Convention was to advance international agreement and cooperation on the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, with a focus on practical implementation and inclusive participation.

Additional goals included:

- Strengthening international legal and policy cooperation against cybercrime
 - Promoting capacity building for developing countries
 - Ensuring human rights-based and victim-centered approaches to cybercrime governance
 - Encouraging youth and civil society engagement in global digital policy processes
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3. Description of the Event

The convention convened **over 1,000 participants from more than 80 United Nations Member States**, including government delegations, ministers, senior policymakers, international and regional organizations, legal and cybersecurity experts, academics, civil society representatives, and youth delegates. The scale and diversity of participation highlighted the global urgency of addressing cybercrime through coordinated, inclusive, and rights-based approaches.

The event was marked by **high-level political leadership and international visibility**. Distinguished participation included **United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres** and **H.E. Mr. Tô Lâm, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**, alongside senior officials from the **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)**, heads of national delegations, and representatives of key international organizations. Their presence underscored strong global commitment to advancing the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime while upholding human rights, the rule of law, and multilateral cooperation.

Through high-level plenary sessions, expert panels, technical workshops, and side events, participants examined critical issues such as digital evidence, cross-border cooperation, protection of children online, data protection, cyber capacity building, and the implications of emerging technologies for cybercrime prevention.

A notable feature of the event was the **Model Conference of Parties (Model COP) to the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime (CyCON COP)**. This simulation-based forum provided youth delegates and emerging leaders with hands-on experience in multilateral negotiations, policy drafting, and consensus building within a UN framework.

4. Participation of Bagmati UNESCO Club, Nepal

Mr. Saiman Pokhrel, Delegate of **Bagmati UNESCO Club, Nepal**, participated in the Hanoi Convention, representing youth perspectives from Nepal in global discussions on cybercrime and digital governance. His participation highlighted the growing role of UNESCO Clubs and youth-led organizations in shaping responsible, ethical, and inclusive digital futures.

During the convention, Mr. Pokhrel:

- Actively engaged in plenary discussions and thematic sessions
- Participated in the **Model Conference of Parties (CyCON COP)**, contributing to simulated negotiations on international cooperation and cybercrime governance
- Delivered a formal **statement** emphasizing the importance of youth engagement, digital literacy, and rights-based approaches to cybersecurity, particularly for developing countries like Nepal



His statement underscored the need to balance security measures with the protection of freedom of expression, privacy, and access to information, aligning cybercrime policies with broader United Nations values and UNESCO principles.

6. Key Features of the Hanoi Convention

- **Multilateral Policy Dialogue:** Inclusive discussions among governments, experts, civil society, and youth representatives
 - **Human Rights Focus:** Emphasis on safeguarding fundamental freedoms while addressing cybercrime
 - **Model COP (CyCON COP):** Practical simulation of UN decision-making processes for youth and emerging leaders
 - **Capacity Building:** Focus on supporting developing countries through cooperation, knowledge sharing, and technical assistance
 - **Youth Engagement:** Recognition of young people as key stakeholders in digital governance and cybersecurity
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7. Outcomes

Key outcomes of the Hanoi Convention included:

- Strengthened global commitment toward a unified and cooperative approach to combating cybercrime
- Enhanced understanding of the draft and implementation pathways of the UN Convention against Cybercrime
- Increased visibility of youth and civil society contributions to international cyber governance
- Practical insights into balancing cybersecurity, development needs, and human rights protections



8. Expected Audience

The convention was designed for a broad and inclusive audience, including:

- Government representatives and policymakers from UN Member States
 - Legal experts and cybersecurity professionals
 - International and regional organizations
 - Civil society organizations and UNESCO Clubs
 - Youth delegates, students, and emerging leaders in digital policy and cyber ethics
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9. Relevance to United Nations Mandates



The Hanoi Convention directly supports United Nations mandates by:

- Promoting international peace and security in the digital domain
- Upholding human rights and the rule of law in cyberspace
- Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly strong institutions, reduced inequalities, and partnerships for the goals
- Encouraging multilateral cooperation to address transnational challenges

10. Strategic Insight for Nepal and UNESCO Clubs

The convention provided valuable lessons for national and local organizations, including UNESCO Clubs:

- The importance of youth capacity building in cybersecurity and digital governance
- The need to align national cybercrime policies with international human rights standards
- Opportunities for countries like Nepal to engage proactively in global digital diplomacy

For **Bagmati UNESCO Club, Nepal**, participation in the Hanoi Convention reinforces its role in localizing global values related to ethics, education, peace, and responsible technology use. Through international representation, youth advocacy, and awareness initiatives, the club contributes meaningfully to shaping a safer, more inclusive digital future.

11. Legacy and Vision

The legacy of the Hanoi Convention lies in its emphasis on cooperation, inclusivity, and practical engagement. By integrating youth voices and promoting rights-based approaches to cybercrime, the convention advances a vision of cyberspace that is secure, just, and accessible for all. Participation by youth delegates such as Mr. Saiman Pokhrel demonstrates how global forums can empower the next generation to contribute responsibly to international policy-making in the digital age.