



AALCO@70
From Seven Decades of Legacy to
Future of International Law
1956–2026

AALCO–UNODC Webinar

United Nations Convention against Cybercrime: From Adoption to Participation and Implementation — An Asian-African Perspective

I. Background and Rationale

The rapid expansion of digital technologies has brought significant benefits to societies and economies, but has also increased the scale and transnational nature of cybercrime. Effective responses increasingly require not only strong national legislation and institutions, but also close international cooperation, particularly in the investigation of offences and the collection and sharing of electronic evidence across borders.

The United Nations Convention against Cybercrime, opened for signature in Hanoi, Viet Nam, in October 2025, represents an important milestone in the development of a global legal framework for addressing these challenges. The Convention provides a common framework covering criminalization, procedural measures, electronic evidence, international cooperation, preventive measures, technical assistance and capacity-building.

For AALCO Member States, the Convention is of particular relevance. It provides an opportunity to strengthen international cooperation against cybercrime while also raising practical questions concerning national legislation, institutional preparedness, implementation, capacity-building and international cooperation.

AALCO has already contributed to promoting understanding of the Convention. In 2025, the Organization published a Special Study on the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime during its Sixty-Third Annual Session in Kampala. A side event organized by Viet Nam, together with the Host Government and UNODC, also provided Member States with an opportunity to discuss the Convention and its practical significance.

Building on these initiatives, AALCO proposes to convene this webinar in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to provide Member States with a clear and practical understanding of the Convention and the benefits and implications of participation.

Beyond introducing the Convention, the webinar will provide an opportunity for Member States to better understand the process and considerations involved in becoming Parties to the Convention

and preparing for its effective implementation. It will also enable States with relevant experience, to share national perspectives, lessons learned and practical approaches with other AALCO Member States.

The webinar is therefore intended not only as an awareness-building exercise, but also as a practical platform to support AALCO Member States that may be considering signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession to the Convention, as appropriate, and its subsequent implementation.

II. Objectives

The webinar will seek to:

1. provide AALCO Member States with a concise and practical overview of the Convention, its principal obligations and mechanisms for international cooperation;
2. explain the significance and practical benefits of participation in the Convention, including cooperation in combating cybercrime and obtaining and sharing electronic evidence;
3. familiarize Member States with the steps and considerations relevant to signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession, as appropriate, and subsequent domestic implementation;
4. facilitate the sharing of national experiences and good practices, including lessons from Viet Nam and other States engaged with the Convention;
5. provide an opportunity for direct dialogue between AALCO Member States, UNODC and national experts on legal, institutional, technical and capacity-building needs; and
6. encourage AALCO Member States to consider participation in and effective implementation of the Convention in accordance with their respective national processes and priorities.

III. Proposed Programme

The webinar will combine concise expert presentations with an interactive exchange with AALCO Member States.

UNODC

The United Nations Convention against Cybercrime: Key Provisions, Benefits of Participation and the Road towards Implementation

The presentation would provide an authoritative overview of the Convention, explain its international cooperation framework, and address practical issues relating to participation, implementation, technical assistance and capacity-building.

Viet Nam

From Hanoi to Implementation: National Experience and Lessons for AALCO Member States

Viet Nam would be invited to share its experience and national perspective, including preparations surrounding the Convention, domestic legal and institutional considerations, and practical lessons that may be useful to other Asian and African States.

AALCO Member State / National Expert

Preparing for Implementation: Legal and Institutional Considerations for AALCO Member States

The presentation would examine practical issues that States may need to consider when assessing participation in and implementation of the Convention, including legislative review, institutional coordination and international cooperation.

The presentations will be followed by an interactive dialogue and Question-and-Answer Session, allowing AALCO Member States to raise practical questions directly with UNODC and participating national experts.

IV. Participants

The webinar will primarily target officials of AALCO Member States involved in international law, criminal justice, cybercrime and digital policy, particularly representatives of Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice, Interior and Information and Communication Technology, as well as prosecutors, law-enforcement officials and other relevant national authorities.

Legal experts, academics and practitioners may also be invited to contribute to the discussion.

V. Expected Outcomes

The webinar is expected to:

- strengthen AALCO Member States' understanding of the Convention and its practical significance;
- provide greater clarity regarding participation in and implementation of the Convention;
- enable Member States to learn directly from UNODC and from the practical experiences of other States;
- identify legal, institutional and capacity-building issues that may require further assistance or cooperation;
- encourage interested AALCO Member States to consider becoming Parties to the Convention in accordance with their national processes; and
- strengthen cooperation between AALCO and UNODC in supporting AALCO Member States towards effective participation in and implementation of the Convention.

Through this initiative, AALCO seeks to serve as a bridge between the global framework established by the United Nations Convention against Cybercrime and the practical needs and experiences of its Member States across Asia and Africa.