



**AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY ESTONIA**

25 June 2024

Secretary-General Tõnis Saar  
Justiitsministeerium  
Suur-Ameerika 1  
10122 Tallinn

Dear Secretary-General Saar

**UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cyber Crime – Estonian Participation**

I understand Estonia is considering withdrawing from its position as Eastern European Vice-Chair on the UN Ad Hoc Committee on Cyber Crime and place on the Bureau. I write to urge Estonia to continue its positive contribution, as negotiations on the convention approach a critical stage.

As one of 13 Vice-Chairs, Australia has worked closely with Estonia over the past three years to ensure the convention aligns with our shared interests. We have maintained an excellent working relationship with your delegate, Mr Markko Künnapu, who has played an active and constructive role.

Likeminded states have built a delicate majority on the AHC Bureau (7 of 13 Vice-Chairs). It is crucial we maintain this position as other states will seek to take advantage of any shifts. We must deny them the ability to use the treaty process to rewrite international law in their own interests. We must ensure the convention does not create a UN-endorsed vehicle to legitimise digital authoritarianism, or undermine international cybercrime cooperation.

These remain genuine risks. Estonia's withdrawal will weaken our position. Should a convention be negotiated contrary to our shared interests, it would degrade international criminal justice and human rights protections and undermine our mutual response to the illegal invasion of Ukraine.

I would therefore respectfully urge Estonia's reconsideration and welcome extension of your leadership on the Bureau.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Ayyalaraju'.

Sri Ayyalaraju  
Australian Ambassador