

## **Permanent Mission of Cyprus**

Thank you Madame Chair.

Allow me to congratulate you for the chairship of the Forum, as well as the Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues.

Respecting the right to an open and free Internet, privacy and data protection, while actively combating hate speech online, cyber crime and terrorist content is a balance that states, among other stakeholders, including the private sector, as well as multilateral organizations, are contended with across the world. Furthermore, as artificial intelligence is further developing and applied across all aspects of our lives, we must assure that balances are eliminated [?] and there is a significant human centered approach to this regard.

In Cyprus, with [?] of the European Commission, the University of Cyprus together with other European partners is implementing the programme in innovative monitoring systems and prevention policies of online hate speech. This issue combines innovative methods of multiple approach for near real time detection of hate speech, identifying the triggers deconstruction and weakening of violent narratives and rising media literacy awareness among the general public. The above complex methodology, the research programme shows the active difficulties the monitoring and contending with cross border and cross regional activities. It is for this reason that the central theme of this year's Forum is so important, ensuring privacy and protection of personal data, while better understanding the mechanisms by which hate speech spreads online, so we can all effectively harness the power of multilateralism, combat the climate of fear among targeted individuals and communities.

Thank you Madame Chair!