

JOINT STATEMENT OF THE ICRTF AND CRI POLICY PILLAR ON THE OCCASION OF THE BELFAST MEETING

9 May 2023

Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, India, INTERPOL, Israel, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America met for a joint meeting of the International Counter Ransomware Task Force (ICRTF) and the Counter Ransomware Initiative (CRI) Policy Pillar in Belfast, UK on 19 April 2023.

The ICRTF and the Policy Pillar, established at the second CRI summit in Washington in November 2022, are focussed on developing innovative solutions and policy options to counter the ransomware threat.

Ransomware is a serious security threat that can impact national security and has a borderless reach. No country, no matter their capabilities or experience, can combat it effectively alone. International partnerships are our force multiplier against ransomware criminals and their ecosystem – they strengthen our capability to detect, disrupt and deter malicious cyber actors that engage in or facilitate ransomware attacks.

This meeting was an opportunity for members to expand our existing collaboration and identify new avenues to cooperate. Through our work, we aspire to build a foundation for global standards and norms to emerge in the counter-ransomware space. To that end, it is our priority to identify opportunities to align our complementary projects. We will work toward a culture of information sharing and develop best practices on incident reporting regimes.

The ICRTF and the Policy Pillar also recognise the importance of industry engagement to combat ransomware. We will enhance our work by connecting our projects with the expertise and experience provided by industry, and we will consider the best options to engage the private sector.

In the lead-up to the third annual CRI Summit in October/November 2023, we will develop a roadmap for item delivery. We look forward to deepening and broadening partnerships between governments and with industry at milestone events in 2023.

We welcome countries who share our deep concerns about the ransomware threat to join the CRI's networks. The ICRTF and Policy Pillar continue to collaborate with the CRI's Diplomacy and Capacity-Building Pillar to grow our coalition against the ransomware threat.