



MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MULTIMEDIA MALAYSIA

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

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### **MINISTER CALLS FOR INCREASED CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION ON GLOBAL STAGE**

*Dubai, Tuesday, 30 October.* The world needs practical, concerted measures to adequately deal with cybersecurity today, said Minister of Communications and Multimedia, Gobind Singh Deo.

In his policy statement delivered at the International Telecommunication Union's Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 (ITU PP-18) held in Dubai from 29 October until 16 November, he added, "The more people are connected, the more incidents there are. Hence, the need for telecommunication and ICT policy makers and regulators to do more about cyber incidents which are increasing by the day."

Gobind cited cybersecurity incidents such as the Wannacry ransomware attack in 2017 and the recent Facebook security breach exposing accounts of 50 million users, which have had a major impact globally resulting in this becoming the norm.

"Cybersecurity incidents go beyond countries, beyond borders. That is one of the reasons we are here today, to find a way to manage all this, on a global scale," said Gobind, speaking to the audience of ministers, top policy makers and regulators of telecommunication and ICT from around the world.

He acknowledged that while some measures have been put in place by the ITU, those with negative intent also tend to get more creative to circumvent the law.

“The question for us all is, what do we, as the ITU, have to do to address this? We are mindful that it is the ITU members who are responsible for the Internet, which is the engine that drives the global digital economy.”

The Minister said that while ITU members continue to roll-out infrastructure, improve quality of service and affordability, as well as drive transformation, they must be mindful that the more their citizens get connected, the more incidents there will be. Hence, the need for the ITU to act swiftly and do more to tackle cyber incidents.

Gobind recalled that when MH 370 went missing four years ago, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in 2014 responded to Malaysia’s call for assistance immediately, which has resulted in all commercial flights now being able to be tracked in real time, demonstrating that the ITU can move quickly to address issues for the greater good.

“However, there is a lot more to be done. While we open up a world of possibilities to the world’s citizens, we also have a duty to protect, and that duty is paramount. Malaysia will extend our full cooperation in this. Together, we must make the cyberspace a safe place,” concluded the Minister.

Established in 1865, the ITU is the United Nations specialised agency for telecommunication and ICT. Held once in every four years and attended by approximately 2,500 delegates from the ITU’s membership of 193 countries, the Plenipotentiary Conference is the ITU’s highest decision-making body which decides the direction of the ITU for the next four-year cycle, elects its top officials and governing bodies. The PP-18 is the ITU’s twentieth Plenipotentiary Conference.

**GOBIND SINGH DEO**

**MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MULTIMEDIA**

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