



General Assembly

14 May 2021

English only

Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

Organizational session
New York, 1 and 2 June 2021

Note by the secretariat

Organization of the work of the open-ended working group

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 75/240 of 31 December 2020, decided to convene an open-ended working group, acting on a consensus basis.

Draft provisional rules of procedure of the open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

2. As a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, the open-ended working group may wish to decide to conduct its work in accordance with the rules of procedure of the main committees of the General Assembly, while acting on a consensus basis in accordance with resolution 75/240.

Participation in the work of the Open-ended Working Group

3. The General Assembly, in its resolution 75/240, has not elaborated on the scope of participation in the open-ended working group, it has however, stated that “the Group may decide to establish thematic subgroups, as the Member States deem necessary, with a view to fulfilling its mandate and facilitating the exchange of views among States on specific issues related to its mandate, and may decide to interact, as appropriate, with other interested parties, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia”.

4. The Group may wish to consider that in keeping with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, all Members have the right to be represented in the Group. Non-Member States, intergovernmental organizations and entities that are granted observer status by the General Assembly, have a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the General Assembly and its subsidiary bodies. The Group may also wish to interact, as appropriate, with

relevant non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

5. The Group may consider addressing the participation of the United Nations system, and other civil society and interested parties relevant and competent to the scope and the purpose of the Working Group, in its work as part of its upcoming deliberations

Organization of the work of the open-ended working group

6. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240, the group will hold its organizational session on 1 and 2 June 2021, in order to agree on the organizational arrangements connected with the group.

7. It is envisaged that 11 substantive sessions would be held from 2021 to 2025 with interpretation in the United Nations six official languages. All the meetings will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

8. The group may wish to consider establishing a programme of work for each of its substantive sessions, incorporating plenary meetings, panel discussions, keynote addresses and informal meetings.

9. The group would submit for adoption by consensus annual progress reports and a final report on the results of its work to the General Assembly at its eightieth session.