



CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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(check against delivery)

**at the organisational meeting of the
Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and
telecommunications technologies 2021-2025**

**of the First Committee of the
the General Assembly of the United Nations**

1 June 2021

Statement on Participation of Stakeholders

Thank you Mr. Chair,

As this is the first time my delegation takes the floor, allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of this Open-Ended Working Group. The Czech Republic has every hope that under your leadership, the OEWG will advance our work on ICT security in a transparent and inclusive manner, whilst respecting past agreements and prioritizing areas of convergence that have crystallized from the outcomes of UN GGEs and prior iteration of the OEWG.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement. However, as we are now discussing rules of procedures governing this new OEWG, allow me to raise a few specific points on inclusiveness and transparency, which are very important to my delegation.

The range of issues discussed in the OEWG – be it protecting essential services to the public from malicious ICT activities or building confidence and trust in cyberspace – requires genuine dialogue and enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders. It is therefore encouraging to see that those stakeholders have taken great interest in UN cyber processes, and contributed actively to our past deliberations.

These contributions would not have been possible without the high degree of transparency throughout the first iteration of the OEWG. We applaud the UNODA for having shared all relevant documents and written proposals online for everyone to see. The UNODA website was an indispensable resource for all stakeholders, and we hope this practice will be maintained and strengthened going forward.

It has been suggested in the past, that the OEWG is the most inclusive UN process on cyber to date. However, significant barriers to effective participation of relevant stakeholders in the current OEWG exist. Specifically, participation is limited to those non-governmental organizations with a consultative ECOSOC status.

This is far from ideal given the dynamics of the last OEWG. In prior iteration of the group, 39 non-governmental organizations from all regions submitted written contributions to inform its work. Of those 39 organizations, only 3 currently hold consultative status with the ECOSOC. Clearly, we can do better and adopt modalities to assure greater inclusiveness whilst guaranteeing that any decision-making continues to remain the sovereign prerogative of UN Member States.

The Czech Republic therefore thanks Canada for submitting a concrete proposal that would enable ECOSOC non-accredited stakeholders representing views of all regions to meaningfully participate in our discussions. These organizations have already contributed

greatly to our past work and we should not leave them waiting at the door. We therefore fully support Canada's proposal, which respects past UN precedent, and is based on modalities adopted just last week in the context of UN cybercrime negotiations.

Mr. Chair,

Challenges emanating from cyberspace cannot be tackled by any one stakeholder group on their own. We hope we can adopt appropriate modalities to ensure this process can make the best use of all the expertise we have at our disposal.

As for the issue of decision-making procedures, I would like to point out that from our perspective, the mandate of the OEWG resolution is quite clear and states that the OEWG will be "*acting on consensus basis*".

Thank you.