

**Statement by the Republic of Estonia
at the UN Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and
communications technologies 2021–2025 (OEWG)
Organisational meeting, 1 June 2021**

Excellencies, colleagues,

Congratulations, Ambassador Gafoor, on your election as Chair of this Open-ended working group.

Estonia aligns its comments with the EU statement.

This spring we have made a big step forward in the UN First Committee on confirming the normative framework for state behaviour in cyberspace. Two successful consensus reports of the UNGGE and OEWG brought genuine breadth to our discussions on ways to enhance stability in cyberspace and showed how important this topic is to all UN Member States. The GGE, which concluded successfully last Friday, dived deeper than ever before and produced on a text that will help not just diplomats but the broader multi-stakeholder cyber community to implement the framework for responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.

Future UN processes on cyber issues are in a stronger place thanks to these successes. The focus now turns to implementation.

Our work is cumulative, so it is also important that as we embark on this new journey, we build on what has been agreed before, including the important recent successes in March and May.

It is important that the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group has sufficient time to develop a work programme carefully and in consultation with Member States, especially considering that the GGE text was agreed only last week.

To take advantage of the momentum, the OEWG should focus its substantive work on areas where consensus is already achieved. We believe that this approach puts us in a stronger position to promote stability and conflict prevention in cyberspace under the auspices of the UN. All modalities of this working group should follow the consensus rule.

In addition, it is important to explore practical, actionable elements to follow up on the implementation of the framework of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, and related capacity-building.

As a co-sponsor of the Programme of Action (PoA), Estonia believes that the establishment of the PoA should be also further explored by the international community.

Finally, we think that it would be very important to include in our discussions also other stakeholders – the private sector, civil society and academia.

We look forward to the next substantive meeting in December.

Let me reiterate our full support to you, Mr Chair!

Thank you!