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

First substantive session (13-17 December)

Regular Institutional Dialogue

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by

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Israel

United Nations, New York
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Thank you Chair,

Israel holds the position that it is important to continue conducting an inclusive and transparent global discussion on matters pertaining to security of and the use of ICT. The question of what should be the exact mechanism of such a regular institutional dialogue is directly related to its possible mandate, modalities and characteristics.

Israel is of the view that for the sake of inclusiveness and effectiveness of such a dialogue, the framework for such a dialogue on ICT should be of a voluntary and non legally binding nature.

In this context, Israel also believes that as cyber security and cyber resilience are key elements of states’ national security, it is essential that any future framework will be consensus-based.

Any chosen institutional dialogue should avoid any duplications or fora fragmentations, as well as maximize the use of resources and maintain a practical and focused process.
As to the proposal of France and Egypt on a program of action for advancing responsible state behavior in cyberspace, Israel thinks the idea is interesting and merits a serious consideration.

At this stage, however, Israel feels it is premature to adopt a position on this proposal, since the modalities and characteristics of such a mechanism are not clear yet and need to be elaborated. As mentioned above, Israel would expect such a mechanism to be consensus based.

Mr. Chair,

Israel believes the OEWG should conduct an in depth discussion on the possible modalities and characteristics of the different options.

Thank you, Chair.