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Draft Statement
By Mr. Heidar Ali Balouji
(First Counselor of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations)
on behalf of the LMG
At the First Substantive Session of
the Open-ended Working Group on
Security of and in the Use of
information and telecommunications technologies

New York, 14 December 2021

Mr. Chair,
I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Syria, Venezuela
and my country, Iran. I congratulate your election as the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group
on the security of and in the use of information and telecommunications technologies
for five years.

This is a process initiated and continuously advocated by this like-minded group and we are happy to see
that now this has become the only global, inclusive, transparent, and intergovernmental process aiming
at realizing safe and secure cyberspace for all based on its founding resolution 75/240.

For us, one strategic goal in this endeavor is to reject any malicious activity in cyberspace and instead
utilizing ICTs only for peaceful purposes. To this end, it is very crucial that we build upon the work of the
previous OEWG, and also respect the mandate envisaged for this OEWG in the said resolution and
reconfirmed by Resolution 76/19.

A practical way to accomplish the said task is to establish subgroups as envisaged in resolution 75/240
and start a text-based negotiation on the final document as soon as the elaborations on the possible
elements of the final document reach a sufficient level of maturity. Fortunately, the final report of the
previous OEWG has captured many converging elements while highlighting the ones that we still need to
work on them to reach a consensus. We can and should continue exactly from where the previous OEWG
finished off.

Given the state-driven nature of the OEWG we believe in some relevant principles such as respecting the
sovereignty of states; non-inference in the internal affairs of the states using ICTs; accountability of
platforms and transnational corporations; the need for codifying and implementing a legally binding
instrument and developing the current international law as well as further norms of responsible state
behavior; the non-compulsory designation of repositories; responsible behavior of non-state actors,
including digital platforms; to ensure and facilitate the cooperation of the related digital platforms and
transnational corporations with the states; application of ICTs for peaceful purposes and rejecting
justification of threat or use of force by means of ICTs; and last but not least, equal status of all national initiatives within the OEWG. We hope these will be guiding principles for this new OEWG. In the same vein, we strongly reject the unilateral coercive measures that prevent the equal access and peaceful use of ICTs for the benefit of economic and social development of the people who suffer from them.

On another organizational matter, we acknowledge the role and contribution of non-governmental stakeholders in supporting states to ensure an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment, and welcome the Chair’s conclusion to maintain the precedent of the first OEWG and continue to engage stakeholders in informal consultative meetings.

Lastly, it is a regret to learn that once again the Host Country has not issued visas timely for delegates of some member states. This is clear violation of the Host Country Agreement and goes against the UN principle of the equal footing of the member states as well as the required inclusivity of the OEWG. We urge the Host Country to implement its legal obligation to issue the requested visas in a prompt manner and without any politicized approach. We appreciate all efforts of the related UN authorities to follow up on this issue and hope that the international community’s efforts will end in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Host Country at large.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.