Mr. Chair,

I wish to congratulate you on assuming the Chairmanship of the Open-Ended Working Group on Security of, and in the Use of, Information and Communications Technologies.

Turkey aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the EU.

We believe that developments in the field of ICTs impact not only our efforts towards peace and security, but also our human rights work and our progress towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The increasing volume, complexity, and severity of threats targeting critical infrastructure requires our full attention. To safeguard the health, finance and energy sectors, we will need to work better and smarter.

We will need to rapidly advance our common understanding of these threats so that we can make informed policy decisions.

In order to effectively prevent and counter these threats, we need to strengthen national capacities.

Of course, no nation can end this scourge alone and that is what makes the OEWG so crucial.

We need to make the best use of our time together here so that we can bolster international cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

Turkey looks forward to building upon the existing body of work – most notably the final report of the previous OEWG, and the consensus GGE reports produced so far.

We believe that within this OEWG, we should give priority to operationalizing the existing and consensus-based rules and norms of responsible state behavior. We urgently need to further develop a common understanding as to how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies.

To this end, we suggest first discussing issues likely to lead to convergence.

Furthermore, we need to take a pragmatic approach to implementation. Each Member State will
have a different experience as the capacity levels and sophistication of cyber security, digitalization, infrastructure, and resilience vary greatly between Member States.

Therefore, it would be prudent to take this opportunity to consider measures to bridge these gaps. By identifying appropriate steps now, we will bolster our collective resilience.

As such, Turkey supports practical measures including:
- increasing exchange of information among Member States;
- establishing platforms that would serve as communication channels in emergency situations while also enabling sharing of information and resources;
- sharing experiences and best practices;
- conducting international exercises to increase cyber security preparedness and response capacities;
- developing guidelines for regulatory frameworks,

And finally

- prioritizing awareness raising activities.

Mr. Chair,

In conclusion, let me once again emphasize the important role relevant stakeholders can play in enriching our discussions and facilitating the implementation of the existing acquis in this field. We thank you for your proposals and hope we will be able to find a consensus solution to the modalities issue.

Mr. Chair,

We look forward to working with you, and your team, throughout this term.

Thank you.