Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025
1st Substantive Session

Statement by the Delegation of Armenia

14 December 2021

Mr. Chairman,

We would like to congratulate you on assuming the leadership of the First Committee of the Open-Ended Working Group and to assure you of Armenia’s full support to your endeavours.

The global and regional trends have essential impact on the use of information and communication technologies. Although Information and communication technologies have been designed to serve the common cause of peace and stability, however malicious use of ICTs can undermine peace and security. The recommitment of all member states to cooperative measures and measures of restraint in the use of ICTs is important to prevent the conflicts and ensure predictability and stability in cyberspace.

In this regard, the OEWG as an inclusive and transparent platform is uniquely positioned to address the current and future challenges in the field of ICTs and shape the international response. We are hopeful that OEWG throughout the next five years will amplify the momentum and spirit of consensus, which was reached during the adoption of OEWG and GGE reports and the relevant UN GA resolution.

During the crisis cause by the pandemic the critical infrastructure, particularly healthcare infrastructure has been subject of cyber-attacks. The misuse of ICTs to disseminate animosity, identity-based hate speech, extremist ideology and violent practices, alongside with glorification of perpetrators of genocidal acts constitute dangerous trends, which, if not addressed, can lead to hate crimes and atrocity crimes.

Armenia underscores high importance of open, free, stable and secure cyberspace, based on the purposes and principles of the UN Charter. We would like to reiterate our long-standing position that the principles and norms of international law in their entirety should become a basis for the
responsible State behaviour in cyberspace. The OEWG is well placed to discuss the operationalization of the existing norms and discuss the need for new norms, principles and rules of responsible state behavior against the backdrop of evolving security environment. The new norms of responsible behavior should foster a common understanding on how to respect, uphold and promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms in the cyberspace.

The confidence building measures and risk reduction tools in the ICT sphere should aim at increasing transparency and predictability, reducing misperceptions and increasing cooperation in the use of ICTs. The designation of national points of contacts for the implementation of the CBMs could be the first step in this regard.

It is our belief that the capacity building measures should be designed on the basis of the needs and priorities identified during the implementation of the existing set of norms and be available for all the relevant stakeholders.

We stand ready to constructively engage and contribute to the deliberations in the framework of the OEWG.

Thank you.