INTERVENTION

On How International law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States

Delivered by

by Ms. Kristine Margret M. Malang
Alternate Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines

to the United Nations in New York

First Substantive Session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use information and communications technologies (ICT) 2021-2025

UN General Assembly Hall, United Nations Headquarters, New York
16 December 2021, 03:00 p.m.

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

We appreciate your guiding questions to facilitate the discussions on capacity-building.

The Philippines’ state of cybersecurity is still at its infancy stage but initiatives have already been undertaken through different agencies in pursuance of its National Cybersecurity Plan 2022 which provide the roadmap to make a coherent and cohesive strategy for cybersecurity.

The Philippines has identified Capacity-Building as one of its Key Strategic Initiatives, as the government needs to acquire and strengthen its capabilities to protect against any cyberthreat. The Philippines is of the view that to secure our cyberspace, States should have the skill and expertise in cybersecurity and the capacity to detect, investigate, and resolve ICT incidents.

At the bilateral level, the Philippines has immensely benefited from its Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Partnership with the Australian government through their Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and PH’s participation in the Cybersecurity Certification Trainings organized by USAID-BEACON. Furthermore, negotiations are underway for another Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Partnership with the Israeli National Cyber Directorate (INCD).
At the regional level, the Philippines has participated in Cybersecurity Trainings provided by the ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity-Building Center, among others.

After identifying the areas of capacity-building support which should be prioritized for early action or urgent implementation, the Philippines proposes that the OEWG, in subsequent sessions, assign facilitators for informal consultations with Member States to facilitate sharing of best practices for each priority area. The facilitators will then report the outcome of their informal consultations to the OEWG Chair. Voluntary periodic reports to be submitted to the Chair during the OEWG’s five-year process may also be considered by the body.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.