24 March 2022

Dear colleagues,

I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240 adopted on 31 December 2020.

On the occasion of the second substantive session of the OEWG taking place from 28 March to 1 April 2022 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, I have the honour to invite Member States and interested stakeholders, including businesses, non-governmental organisations and academic, to a virtual open-ended informal meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, 31 March 2022 (New York local time) via Microsoft Teams. The exact timing of the meeting will be conveyed in due course.

I intend for this to be a focussed dialogue between Member States and stakeholders on topics under consideration by the OEWG, as mandated by General Assembly resolution 75/240 and contained in the OEWG’s agenda (A/AC.292/2021/1). For this informal meeting, we will focus on the role of the stakeholder community in supporting capacity-building in the field of ICT security. My hope is that this informal meeting will result in specific suggestions on how Member States and stakeholders can better coordinate and cooperate in the area of capacity-building. Specifically, I invite Member States and stakeholders to be guided by the following questions for the discussions in this meeting:

- How can stakeholders better support Member States and/or the OEWG in capacity-building? Are there specific capacity-building initiatives raised during the OEWG’s discussions which could benefit from the contributions of stakeholders?
What mechanisms could help facilitate the effective dissemination of information relating to (a) requests for capacity-building by Member States, and (b) capacity-building programmes offered by Member States, international organisations and/or stakeholders?

How can the stakeholder community organise itself to effectively contribute to capacity-building efforts, including through cooperation with Member States?

(For stakeholders) In what ways can your organisation contribute to capacity-building in the field of ICT security?

In order to ensure the most productive use of our meeting time, I kindly request that speakers refrain from making general points or addressing other issues outside the scope of the guiding questions. There will be no pre-established speakers’ list as the intention is to have an interactive and two-way dialogue.

The registration details for interested stakeholders are enclosed. Member States will receive the meeting link separately from the Secretariat in due course. I look forward to a substantive and productive engagement.

Burhan Gafoor
Chair
Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

Enclosure:
- Annex – Registration details
ANNEX

REGISTRATION DETAILS

If you wish to participate in the virtual open-ended informal meeting on 31 March 2022, please register at the Microsoft Forms link provided below no later than Tuesday, 29 March 2022. Each participant should register individually at the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/eNNBibTv3L.

Please note that there will be no pre-established speakers list for the virtual open-ended informal meeting. Participants will be able to inscribe on the speakers list during the course of the meeting. Confirmed participants will receive login details prior to the meeting.

Additional Information

More information on the OEWG 2021-2025 can be found at the UNODA Meetings Place.

Specific queries may be directed to Ms. Katherine Prizeman, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, prizeman@un.org.