

March 28 stakeholder modalities / Ukraine

Chair,

Thank you for convening this meeting and for this opportunity to speak.

Regarding **stakeholder modalities**:

- Canada is disappointed that we have not yet agreed modalities.
- In UN processes, one normally agrees on modalities before moving to substance.
- December: allowed substantive discussions to proceed while informals on modalities took place. Was hoping we'd have modalities agreed in time for this meeting.
- Especially disappointed that Russia and a small group of States broke silence on the Chair's proposal in January.
- While not at all perfect, Canada could have lived with that proposal, which ensured a minimum of transparency. If States wanted to veto, they just had to identify themselves. Not too much to ask, in our view.
- Now, not ideal at all to meet again without stakeholder modalities, and thus without stakeholders being able to participate as fully as they should.
- This is not just a procedural issue, but also a substantive one.

- As High Representative Nakamitsu pointed out, the private sector owns and operates much of the physical infrastructure of the Internet.
- NGOs have lots to say about things like the **human centric approach** to implementing norms, gender considerations, freedom online, etc.
- Academics and think tanks bring valuable perspectives on issues such as how international law applies in cyberspace.
- Not having stakeholders present or able to engage fully means that these perspectives are not represented adequately in our discussions.
- It undermines the very legitimacy of this process and could call into question the ability to reach outcomes that are consensual and meaningful.
- All this because a small group of 8 States wants to be able to veto the participation of all non-ECOSOC accredited stakeholders, without even being willing to identify themselves.
- This is very disappointing. We hope to reach a compromise deal on modalities.
- Canada looks forward to engaging in the informal discussions you have convened tomorrow to address this issue, so that we can include stakeholders properly in the July session.

On **format** of this meeting:

- Canada associates with remarks made by my British colleague just now.
- We also support the US request that the meeting be held in informal format. This will allow us to have substantive discussions this week, while maintain the right to block the adoption of the program of work for July, should stakeholder modalities not be agreed by then.
- Meeting like this without having agreed modalities is worse than having the weakest of modalities.
- Therefore, we support the US proposal that this meeting be held in informal format.
- We would hope that interpretation remains offered and that the meeting be broadcast on UN TV, even if the meeting is held in informal format.
- This would allow delegations who were not able travel from capital due to COVID restrictions or other reasons to follow the meeting.
- It would also allow stakeholders to follow the proceedings.

Ukraine

Le Canada condamne fermement l'invasion injustifiable et non provoquée de l'Ukraine par le président Poutine.

Le président Poutine a ordonné la plus grande invasion militaire à l'encontre d'un pays européen depuis la Seconde Guerre

mondiale. Il a rompu la paix et compromis la sécurité en Europe.

Les attaques russes ont de graves conséquences humanitaires et entraînent la mort de milliers d'innocents.

Il ne s'agit pas que d'une attaque contre l'Ukraine. C'est aussi une atteinte au droit international, y compris à la Charte des Nations Unies. C'est également une atteinte à la démocratie, à la liberté et aux droits de la personne.

Le président Poutine essaie délibérément de redessiner par la force des frontières internationalement reconnues, en se basant sur de la propagande cynique et mensongère, ainsi que des récits absurdes.

En lançant cette guerre, la Russie cherche à priver un peuple de sa liberté et à renverser le gouvernement démocratiquement élu d'une nation souveraine.

Nous devons obliger les hauts responsables russes à rendre compte de leurs actes.

Le monde entier doit condamner les agissements du président Poutine. Pour sa part, le Canada réaffirme son soutien au gouvernement de l'Ukraine et au peuple ukrainien, dont il salue le courage et la résilience.

Merci.