

Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

28 March – 1 April 2022

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Key EU messages: Agenda item 5: Confidence-building measures

Mr. Chairman,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the EU and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Georgia and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

1. The global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace has become vital to the national interest of all states. It is also essential to maintain international security and stability.
2. International law, norms, capacity building and confidence building measures (CBMs) form an integrated compendium that defines and shapes responsible state behaviour in cyberspace.
3. Measures and recommendations to reduce the possibility of misinterpretation, escalation or unintended consequences in cyberspace are an important subject for our discussions, and we have agreed already on such measures with the aim to improve international security and stability.
4. Building on the UNGGE achievements, the previous OEWG provided a space for all stakeholders, including regional organisations, to share best practices and elaborate on their work on confidence building thusfar. In the context of CBMs, the new OEWG should continue raising awareness and elaborating on CBMs, including by taking forward the OEWG and UN GGEs recommendations to strengthen the implementation of CBMs.
5. The OEWG and UN GGE final reports provided clear and concrete recommendations to advance transparency, cooperative and stability measures among ourselves.
6. For these reasons, the EU and its Member States see the OEWG as an opportunity to share practical tools, best practices and examples to engage and further advance the development and implementation of CBMs.
7. There is a clear need to implement the measures we have developed to date, and to work together with the multi-stakeholder community to build further trust and confidence in cyberspace.

8. Firstly, we should advance cross regional cooperation, notably for other interested organisations to learn about existing practices and experiences to use in the development of their own sets of CBMs.
9. It can also provide participating States elements to support the implementation of CBMs in their own regional settings.
10. We could share lessons learned among regional organisations developing and implementing CBMs to identify gaps and additional measures, building on a bottom-up approach, thanks to the participation in our discussion of practitioners.
11. Second, we should use confidence-building measures as a concrete area to build confidence across all actors. Many have mentioned to the past OEWG as a confidence building in itself. It should however be noted that in order for trust and confidence to be built, it is foremost necessary that we see States abiding by the framework we agreed upon, and not grossly breach it as we are seeing Russia doing at this moment. Russia's aggression is at the odds of confidence building and undermine efforts to build regional trust, including through the development and implementation of CBMs. Trust and confidence also requires compromises, something else that we are not seeing from Russia.
12. One of the primary idea behind the CBMs is to develop and maintain a system of direct communication between states to defuse conflicts and prevent unintentional escalation. However, let me reiterate that it is now more relevant than ever and we encourage all States to continue their endeavour to promote a stable and secure cyberspace, including with confidence building measures.
13. Trust and confidence requires cooperation among all of us, including with other stakeholders that bear responsibility for cybersecurity as well, notably when it comes to implementing our recommendations and decisions.
14. It is more than pertinent to use the opportunity to underscore the various actors' role in cyberspace in view to enhance confidence among us, the value of inclusive and multi-stakeholder discussion.
15. Civil society or private sectors could also facilitate the engagement with interested stakeholders, such as private sector and technical communities, that have also a role in supporting the implementation of confidence building measures, in particular those including public-private partnerships.
16. Particularly, under the PoA initiative, we see the opportunity to establish a platform to advance both objectives. Create a platform for trust and partnerships among all stakeholders, as well as provide a forum for sharing best practices, identifying opportunities and challenges to implement CBMs, and further universalize regional confidence building measures tailored to each region security challenges.

17. The EU and its Member States look forward to continuing the exchange in the OEWG on how confidence-building measures could provide and add value, enhancing security and stability in cyberspace.
18. The EU and its Member States look forward to continuing the exchange in the OEWG and in the context of the PoA on how confidence-building measures could provide and add value, enhancing security and stability in cyberspace.