

**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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Set of draft key EU messages for Friday 1 April 2022

Agenda item 5: institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States

Thank you Chair

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 and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

- Our discussions on cybersecurity in the United Nations have led to valuable progress, within successive UN GGEs and within the first OEWG.
- Their consensus reports have managed to consolidate a solid framework, based primarily on the application of international law; norms, rules and principles of responsible state behaviour; confidence-building measures and capacity building.
- Listening the statements by countries in the room for past four days, we have heard a clear need to move forward urgently with the implementation of this comprehensive international framework.
- Increasing capacities and common and concrete understanding on the framework will broaden our joint ability to enhance security and stability in cyberspace while respecting human rights.
- For that purpose, the EU, together with 57 UN Member States, proposes to establish a Programme of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace (PoA), that would offer a permanent, inclusive and action oriented mechanism within the United Nations on the use of Information and Communication Technologies in the context of international security.

- We warmly welcome the new co-sponsors that have expressed their support for the PoA over the last days and look forward to continue our cooperation with all co-sponsors.
- The PoA's main objectives would be to support the implementation of the UN framework, notably through tailored capacity building efforts based on concrete actions needed to adhere to the UN framework and States' assessments of their needs in this regard. In addition, the PoA will allow for exchanges between relevant experts on best practices and lessons learned on concrete issues of implementation.
- The PoA should also allow for engagement with the multi-stakeholder community in an appropriate manner, allowing for meaningful exchanges and cooperation to advance to keep cyberspace open, accessible, stable and secure for all. Our respective efforts are complementary, noting that the participation of other stakeholders is inherent to the character of cyberspace; they have a key role in the core functioning of cyberspace, and in contributing to the implementation of our recommendations and decisions.
- The EU and its Member States also see great potential for complementarity for the PoA and the OEWG. For instance, the OEWG could exchange on challenges for implementation, providing valuable input for the establishment of the PoA.
- In order to ensure the complimentary between the OEWG and the PoA, the OEWG could facilitate timely and dedicated exchanges on the PoA, taking into account the specific views and needs of all States and relevant stakeholders, and ensuring the OEWG is regularly informed about the state of play on the establishment of the PoA.
- Let me again give a warm welcome to the new co-sponsors, and thank the existing co-sponsors for the good cooperation over recent months. We are looking forward to continue our cooperation to advance a global, open, stable and secure cyberspace.
- As this is the last time I take the floor, let me also thank the Chair and all colleagues for the good discussions this week, and let me reiterate our full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukraine people.