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Statement by

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Annual Reports

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for including this important topic in the program of work of the second substantive session of the OEWG.

First and foremost, I would like to remind the Group of the importance of not only taking into account the experience of previous OEWGs but also building upon the lessons taken from that experience. It was a fact that the final report of the previous OEWG could not reflect all of the member states' views and, as a way out, it was agreed to capture the non-consensual points in the Chair's summary annexed to that report. As such, it was an immensely undesirable situation that the member states had to either take or leave. This approach was surely not satisfactory to all member states, and a number of member states had to either disassociate from the report or raise their dissatisfaction with it. One obvious reason for this situation was the applied approach to deliberate instead of negotiate in the previous OEWG where positions were raised repeatedly without any concrete attempt to bridge the gaps; a function that only real negotiations could deliver.

We are of the view that repeating the previous experience should be avoided by applying a proper, prudent and efficient approach. Fortunately, we have enough time to consider different options and choose the best one in the days to come. We can utilize the intersessional process to finalize this.

Regarding the content of the report, we suggest having a report that reflects the procedural aspect and, to the extent possible, captures consensually accepted substantial points. To do so, the first step is to establish an agreed-upon structure for the annual reports to direct the flow of negotiations. Consequently, it is imperative to change the idea of deliberating guiding questions and replace it with a rolling text-based negotiation, the original text of which could be developed

by the distinguished Chair. One probable complementary idea could be to also attach an annex to the annual reports consisting of comments of the member states for that report.

After all, it is a logical expectation that the final report would be a reflection of the evolving rolling text that, in turn, will improve through the extensive efforts in bridging the gaps among member states through a real negotiation and drafting exercise.

It is highly expected that the distinguished Chair would exert new creativity to guide negotiations based on the drafting exercise on the six pillars of the mandate to gain outcomes rather than member states giving statements.

We strongly propose that the OEWG choose this path that will allow all UN member States to commence text-based negotiations in a transparent manner so that their interests and concerns can be accommodated.

The purpose of establishing the OEWG is to promote a safe and secure ICT environment for all, not just for a specific number of states. To this end, we believe that instead of repeating well-known positions and statements, the rolling text-based negotiations should be started as soon as possible.

Thank you.