Mister Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Belgium aligns itself with the statement by the European Union and its member states. In my national capacity I would like to highlight the following points.

The cyber threats landscape changes rapidly all over the globe, making it more and more difficult for states to adapt security measures timely and proficiently. The Final Report of the previous OEWG stated the development of confidence building measures as one of pillars to prevent existing and potential threats and advance cyber stability.

First of all, Belgium strongly condemns the acts of aggression committed by Russia in Ukraine, which undermine international security and violate the UN Charter and our common principles as United Nations.

However, in the light of this discussion Belgium wants to focus on the importance of public-private partnerships (PPPs) which can be highly beneficial in terms of cyber security.

In the context of the OSCE, Belgium together with Austria and Estonia have conducted a research to discover the landscape of how PPP’s are implemented in states. The result of this research shows a wide range of PPP’s and a different level of implementation. Some states do not have PPP’s while in others there is a strong interaction between the public and private domains.

Trust between public and private actors is a crucial concept in PPPs and helps to establish direct contact with vital organizations for ensuring cybersecurity and enables a proactive attitude in case of a crisis involving or stemming from a cyber incident.

Governments can stimulate or create this trust by:

1) Providing clear rules and guidance;
2) Acting as a facilitator between the public and private sector;
3) Providing a clear framework for Public-Private Partnerships;
4) Providing incentives for the community to initiate Public-Private Partnerships;
5) Actively fostering a culture of trust, good will and cooperation between private, public and academic sectors;
6) Providing concrete tools for Public-Private Partnerships, such as information-sharing and reporting platforms;
7) Being directly involved in the process of specific technical projects and take the lead;
8) And so much more...

Since November 2021 three new co-adopters (Italy, Sweden and Finland) have joined us in this project.

Our goal is not only to inform and exchange best practices in public private partnerships through various means between the public and private sectors but also between states.

Ultimately, this Confidence Building Measure will contribute to strengthening confidence between states.

The OEWG could certainly draw inspiration from this work. Functioning itself as CBM at the global level by ensuring a transparent and cooperative dialogue, the OEWG could continue the consultation initiated with regional organizations on the implementation of CBMs. Their diverse experiences would stimulate a global reflection on these measures.

We also believe in the creation of a global list of point of contacts. This confidence-building measure will create confidence, interaction, co-operation and trust between states.

Let me thank you, Mister Chair, for your efforts and commitment to this process, and let me express the full solidarity of Belgium with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.