CZECH REPUBLIC

Statement by

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at the 2nd substantive session of the
Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and telecommunications technologies 2021-2025

of the First Committee of the
the General Assembly of the United Nations

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Thank you, Mr. Chair, for convening this meeting and for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The Czech Republic aligns itself with the EU statement and wishes to highlight the following points in its national capacity.

Let me express the Czech Republic's full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people. We strongly condemn Russia's unjustified and unprovoked act of aggression against Ukraine, which is a flagrant violation of international law and the UN Charter and undermines international security and stability. The Czech Republic demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine’s territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognized borders. Russia also needs to stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

The Czech Republic is ready to provide its contribution to a substantive discussion at the OEWG. But it is utmost uncomfortable for us to discuss application of international law in virtual world when at the same the international law is flagrantly violated in physical world.

On the program of work - as we have already expressed many times, the Czech Republic attaches particular importance to the role of stakeholders in the OEWG process and we are deeply concerned that there is still no consensus on modalities.

We consider the involvement of multi-stakeholders to be an important step towards improving the transparency and inclusiveness of the OEWG.

The technical community and the private sector play an indispensable role in providing information on threats emerging in cyberspace. We therefore encourage the OEWG to leverage this knowledge and provide the multi-stakeholder community with the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the OEWG deliberations.

We continue to believe that Canada's proposal from the organizational meeting, based on the precedent set at the UN cybercrime, is a reasonable compromise solution, but we are open to other constructive proposals and we hope to reach a compromise agreement on the terms this week.

With regard to the format of this meeting, we also support the comments made earlier by our British colleague, as well as the US request for the meeting to be held in an informal format.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.