German Statement at the March OEWG, Agenda Item 5g

(Cyber Capacity Building)

Honorable Chair,

Germany is fully aligned with the statement of the EU and wishes to add the following points in a national capacity.

As outlined in the report of the 2021 OEWG, the international community’s ability to prevent or mitigate the impact of malicious ICT activity depends on the capacity of each State to prepare and respond.

Capacity-building helps to develop the skills, human resources, policies, and institutions that increase the resilience and security of States so they can fully enjoy the benefits of digital technologies.

It also plays an important enabling function for promoting adherence to international law and the implementation of norms of responsible State behaviour, as well as supporting the implementation of CBMs.

Designed as an implementation focused platform Germany is convinced that the envisaged UN Program of Action could serve as an effective practical tool to deliver cyber capacity building solutions to UN member states while respecting the UN principles as laid out in the report of the 2021 OEWG. Germany fully echoes the elaborate suggestions made by France and Egypt in their statements yesterday.

As a country benefitting from strong international partnerships in the cyber arena, Germany is also keen to offer cyber capacity building solutions to its international partners through a multitude of already existing programs focusing on Africa, the Western Balkans and Eastern Europe including Ukraine.

As part of its presidency of G7 states and working closely with the ECOWAS – Commission Germany has launched an international partnership to strengthen the cyber resilience of West Africa at a national and regional level.

Directly responding to priorities communicated by the region, this partnership will include building cyber diplomacy skills, fighting
cybercrime with a focus on the protection of vulnerable groups, strengthening data sovereignty and developing skills and guidelines for the protection of critical infrastructure.

Germany would like to draw the attention of delegations to the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building tentatively scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. in November. This high level event hosted by the World Bank in partnership with the Cyber Peace Institute, the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the World Economic Forum will focus on cyber security and development.

This conference presents an important opportunity to advance our thinking on how to best include cyber security capacity building aspects into the global agenda for equitable and sustainable development.

With regards to the work of this group Germany would welcome further elaborating India’s suggestion for a UN cyber task force. Germany would like to echo the remarks made by Finland and Costa Rica on the importance for the OEWG to closely involve private sector actors at the conceptual and practical level in preparing its recommendations under this agenda item.

Germany welcomes the idea of considering an institutional role for the UN in the context of CCB as offered by Under Secretary General, Izumi Nakamitsu and mentioned by France and the Netherlands in their statements.

As a long-time supporter and donor Germany welcomes the many instances in which UNIDIR has been brought in the discussion also in view of playing a more practical implementing role – be it in the area of capacity building or confidence building measures.

Germany would like to remind all member states that UNIDIR is an independent institute, funded by UN member states on a voluntary basis. For this reason this group cannot “request” work per se. However the OEWG can suggest areas of further research or work to UNIDIR, which would require additional resources to be provided by us, the member states.