

**Submission to the first substantive session of the UN Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (2021-2025)**

(March 2022)

**Contribution by KnowBe4**

On the occasion of the second substantive session of the second Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies, KnowBe4 wishes to offer a capacity-building contribution in response to the OEWG Chair's letter dated 24 March, 2022. Our contribution addresses the following question in the Chair's letter:

*How can stakeholders better support Member States and/or the OEWG in capacity-building? Are there specific capacity-building initiatives raised during the OEWG's discussions which could benefit from the contributions of stakeholders?*

**KnowBe4 Capacity-Building Contribution to Member States:**

As the leading global provider of cybersecurity awareness education and as security culture advocates, we believe we have a role to play in mitigating and preventing the biggest instigator of the majority of cyber-attacks – social engineering. Social engineering bypasses technical defenses and targets the human as a means to compromise systems and gain unauthorized access. In the past year alone, there were several high-visibility incidents that underscored the seriousness of the threat.

As our digital economies grow, we cannot afford to see cybersecurity awareness education as a technology skill anymore, because in our modern world, it is a life skill.

To that end, we believe that national and economic resilience is intertwined with the cybersecurity awareness of our collective communities. KnowBe4 believes that we have a role to play and we would like to offer a special package of our cybersecurity education targeted toward school-age children for free to all Member States to use in their schools.

We want to equip the youth of our world, as our children play, learn and eventually work in the emerging digital economies. They are, after all, our future and we should prepare them to be resilient to the cyber risks they will encounter.

Our educational content is available in 34 languages, and we use the latest in learning sciences and offer entertaining games, interactive videos, quizzes, hands-on activities and we even have our own educational action-drama show which we have four seasons of - that is of network television quality. We have many teachers around the world using these materials in their classrooms organically, but we feel that a more concerted effort is warranted to make sure that cybersecurity education about social

engineering and online safety of young people needs to be focused on more systematically. With your support we hope to make that happen with our donation of free materials to schools.

We fully agree with the Chair that capacity-building is a confidence building measure and that confidence building measures build trust. We hope that Member States consider our education donation as a private sector contribution to our collective global cyber resilience.

If you would like to reach us, you can do so through the Science, Technology and International Security Unit at the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs.

Or contact KnowBe4's Chief Learning Officer John N Just, Ed.D [ [jjust@knowbe4.com](mailto:jjust@knowbe4.com) ]

#### *About KnowBe4*

*KnowBe4 is the world's largest security awareness and simulated phishing provider helping businesses, governments and critical infrastructures manage social engineering threats. Operating on every continent and in 35 languages KnowBe4 is unrivaled in its understanding of the global human cybersecurity landscape and the content in its security awareness training library. Learn more at [www.knowbe4.com](http://www.knowbe4.com)*