



Statement by South Africa at the Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 Informal Session held in March/April 2022 Establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, regular, institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States

- The United Nations General Assembly is best placed to facilitate inclusive and transparent deliberations amongst its Member States towards the development and implementation of measures to increase stability and security in the use of ICTs and to prevent ICT practices that are to be harmful or that may pose threats to individual Member States or international peace and security.
- International collaboration is critical in securing cyberspace nationally and globally. We recognise the need for global coordination and cooperation on matters regarding cybersecurity and South Africa is ready to work with relevant and appropriate international organisations and governments, in line with our Constitution, and existing international agreements.
- It would be ideal for the OEWG to agree on a method on collaboration that promotes a coordinated global response to matters related to cybersecurity. This could include regular dialogue to assess the needs of States with regard to, inter alia, further elaboration of possible norms and principles as needed, confidence-building measures, capacity development, and overall coordination of national points of contact.
- South Africa has stated before that the cyber domain is developing rapidly and that is unlikely that the international community will be able to develop a comprehensive and sustainable response. We therefore underline the importance of implementing the work already done while considering how best to update our response to developments in this domain.
- It is also in this context that we believe that the proposed Programme of Action (PoA) on implementation is a welcome contribution to our deliberations towards an action orientated approach and should go hand in hand with capacity building and strengthening our global response to cybersecurity challenges. South Africa looks forward to gaining greater clarity on the modalities of this proposal, including how the PoA would function and where it would be situated within the UN system.

- Finally, for South Africa it would be important to consider implementation, including the PoA proposal, within the current OEWG as the only way to maintain unity and cohesion between the different strands of our important work.