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 on Further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States and the ways for their implementation and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour

- As stated before, South Africa believes that voluntary norms add an additional layer of understanding of the applicability of international law in cyberspace and is therefore an important aspect of the OEWG’s work and outcomes.

- Whatever the outcome of this OEWG, South Africa believes that nothing prevents States from implementing possible norms prior to the end of the mandate of this working group in 2025. In this regard, the *acquis* of the first OEWG and GGE reports has been accepted as the basis for the Working Group’s work. South Africa has also stated before that implementation of the existing work that has been done will reveal both effective practices and potential gaps which will enrich the discussion on norms and possible principles of responsible behaviour in this forum.

- Pursuing regular information sharing between States, even before concluding an international agreement, is a viable norm and principle along which to operate.

- Some States may be in the process of building their national cyber-threat infrastructure, particularly developing countries, and some enhancement from the international community at large would provide practical steps that could later become part of a larger international agreement.

- The development of new norms should not detract from the implementation of existing norms. The further development of norms, rules and principles should be understood as a process of evaluating, updating where necessary, and refining rather than seeking to develop a completely new set of norms.

- At a practical level, South Africa believes that it is important for Member States to document their implementation in a standardized template so that gaps may be identified and addressed. For this reason, South Africa supports the use of the model of the National Survey of Implementation of United Nations General Assembly Resolution 70/237.