

## STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTS (MARCH 2022)

### Confidence Building Measures (CBMs)

CBMs endeavour to build relationships and procedures in times of peace and stability, that can be used for de-escalation in times of crisis.

#### Confidence Builders group

- As Brazil, Canada, Germany, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, RoK, and Singapore have mentioned, To progress efforts on CBMs, Australia is also a part of an *open cross-regional group to advance cyber confidence building measures in the OEWG*.
- the group is comprised of nations that span ARF, OSCE, OAS membership, and we are keen to invite others prioritising the development and implementation of CBMs – especially from other regional organisations, and those countries that may not be part of a regional organisation, to work with us on this important matter.
  - Broad engagement will enable strengthened linkages between regional groups and states from all regions to share lessons learned from our regional experiences with CBMs.
  - As others have mentioned are currently working on a paper which we plan to circulate in the context of this session that details practical ideas for further study.

#### AUS regional initiatives – ARF POC Directory with Malaysia

- Australia will continue to develop and promote risk reduction measures, to build confidence in states' ability to respond to specific instances of malicious cyber activity without escalation.
- Welcome the proposal made by India on inclusion of the multistakeholder community in this work
- And we appreciate the acknowledgement in our current work, and in the 2021 reports, on the leading role played by regional organisations to build and implement confidence building measures in cyberspace.
- For Australia, this is made most evident in the progress being made through the ASEAN Regional Forum's ICTs security workstream
- Australia and Malaysia's proposal for an ARF cyber points of contact directory was approved by Ministers in 2020. The directory is a foundational risk reduction measure which seeks to facilitate near real

time communication in the event of ICT security incidents of potential regional security significance.

And I thank the Malaysian delegate for her intervention and align fully with Malaysia's very important points made on the development, procedure, and continual updating of this directory.

As my Malaysian colleague mentioned, establishing this regional POC directory was not necessarily a simple process. Malaysia and Australia worked for **over 5 years** - from concept to operation - to garner agreement from all ARF member states to establish the directory, working to provide appropriate security and set in place relevant protocols for the use of the POC directory, that met the comfort thresholds of all ARF member states.

I raise these difficulties not to dishearten or dissuade the OEWG on the development of a global POC directory, but to bring to our attention the very specific and practical issues that we will need to address in our pursuit of this goal for a global POC directory – and to provide an example of ultimate success.

- After such a lengthy process to establish the ARF POC directory, Australia can Support Costa Rica's proposal to study further the experiences of regional organisations setting up POC directories as a source of learning for our own work.

### 'Survey'

- Much has already been said yesterday regarding our launch of the online *National Survey of Implementation*, through UNIDIR's cyber policy portal.
  - I only want to note briefly that this Survey and its responses can serve the core CBM objectives of transparency and also procedures for cooperation.
    - On transparency - Clearly signalling our domestic policies, interpretations of the framework recommendations for implementation, and acknowledging areas for further attention helps build mutual trust between countries.
    - And on Co-operation – through providing an avenue to collect and collate a global cyber point of contacts directory.
    - The importance of which is made stark when we acknowledge that not all States are members of a regional organizations, and not all regional organizations have CBMs or POCs in place

- And welcome Singapore's proposal to conduct table top exercises to promote and test such a global POC directory
- Which we hope can address some of the points made by Costa Rica on functionality, and the Netherlands on procedural exercising.

Finally chair I want to thank you for your digression, and reiterate Australia's support for the chair, and echo your hope that all countries can come to our work constructively and flexibly, demonstrating our commitment to the OEWG.