

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE FIRST
SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE OPEN ENDED WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY
OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTS (December 2021)**

Capacity Building

Australia aligns with almost everything that has been said under this topic – and will therefore be brief in my remarks.

It is only by coordinated and targeted capacity building to ensure all states are in a position to implement and adhere to our commitments to the framework of responsible state behaviour, that we can make progress towards a more open, secure, stable, and peaceful cyberspace, and be in a position to address the known and unknown threats that our global community will face in the future.

Australia supports greater mobilisation of resources in support of cyber capacity building.

We can be precise on what we want it to focus on at first – capacity building to support recommendations of the 2021 GGE, and OEWG reports – and taking into account, and guided by, the specific principles for cyber capacity building agreed in the 2021 OEWG report [as noted by Thailand].

There are several practical issues that this OEWG can focus upon in making progress in cyber capacity building that has tangible real-world impact:

- The two-way nature of capacity building;
- The essential role of the private sector to build the link between technical and policy communities
 - o [Australia is particularly interested in and supportive of the idea from Indonesia for capacity building to assist states to understand and engage with the multistakeholder community;]
- Matching of capacity building needs and providers – including coordination and taking into account the ability to absorb capacity building – the survey of national implementation can assist in this regard;
- Capacity building to increase the understanding of international law and its applicability in cyber space;
- Supporting gender-centred approach to capacity building; deliverables must be visible and discernible, aimed at ensuring participation of women

- [And, aligning with points made by the Netherlands, on expanding our focus on diversity to include other aspects of social inclusivity]; and
- The importance of an evidence-based approach – as can be affected through use of the Survey of national implementation.

Australia also strongly supports capacity building directed to encourage meaningful engagement with these discussions – for example, the Women in Cyber Fellowship.

Finally, Australia aligns in particular with the statements of France and Egypt as regards the potential for the Programme of Action proposal to make a real difference in the cyber capacity building implementation.