

**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)**

Other Business

GENDER

With sincere thanks to the Secretariat for sharing their records, I would like to note that, during this week, there were 241 interventions made by end of business yesterday, with 89 made by women speakers.

To put this in context –

As noted by Under Secretary General Nakamitsu when she launched the Women in Cyber fellowship in February 2020, peace deals stick better and last longer when women are at the table.

UNIDIR's report Still Behind The Curve (focused on exploring the disproportionate gender divide in disarmament discussions compared with other UN committees), found that women comprise one third of diplomats accredited to UN First Committee conferences.

In First committee debates, 27% of speakers are women.

This drops to 20% in forums on more specialised topics [such as, perhaps, cyber affairs].

So 37% of interventions this week from women speakers is better than the average across peace and security.

My question to this group is, can we continue this progress?

I sincerely hope so.