

**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)**

Regular Institutional Dialogue

Australia recalls the recommendations of the 2021 OEWG report, to ensure continuation of inclusive and transparent discussions under the auspices of the UN.

Australia aligns with the statements of France and Egypt, the European Union and many others as regards their points on the proposal to establish a programme of action under the auspices of the United Nations.

The proposal for a UN Programme of Action aims to promote, refine and implement common understandings and cooperative measures

- to respond to current and emerging threats in the ICT environment in the context of international security
- and to provide a periodic opportunity to assess whether additional actions are necessary to respond to the rapidly evolving ICT environment.

The Framework for responsible state behaviour is not a static one: technology advances; threats evolve and proliferate; challenges to implementation remain.

The POA can provide vehicles to promote relevance and agility in the face of such change.

I look forward to further discussions on this topic in future as we shape the Programme of Action to be accessible and relevant for all states.