Threats and norms – July 25

Thanks Chair for this opportunity for Canada to express our views on the sections of the report on Threats and Norms.

Before getting into that, I would like to say that **Canada supports the Statement made by the Czech Republic** on behalf of a number of States, Microsoft and Cyber Peace Institute about the veto of stakeholders. We especially regret the unexplained vetoes of a large number of stakeholders by Russia, for the reasons outlined by my Czech colleague. I will have more to say about this at the stakeholder session on Wednesday afternoon.

I also wanted to thank you Chair for organizing a **successful informal stakeholder session last Thursday**. It showed how stakeholders - including those who were vetoed – have a lot to contribute to this process.

Canada pledged to **consult them on any major text suggestions** that we put forward, as we did at the last OEWG. We encourage other States to do this as well.

Turning now to the report. **Canada is generally supportive of the report** as currently drafted, which is an improvement over the previous version. We think it offers a **good basis for discussions** today and tomorrow.

We have a number of comments on each section on how it could be further improved.

Let me start with the **Introduction**. Canada supports the reaffirmation of the acquis in the introduction. This is the foundation on which our work rests. Others are working on some small changes that we may support, but we are overall happy with this section.

Threats

Some good content, but few actual cyber threats are listed. Canada and several others had mentioned **ransomware** as a key one.

Ransomware is an example of a cyber threat to critical infrastructure that should be included in the report. Canada and several other states mentioned it during previous sessions as a key current threat.

Cyber operations by Russia in Ukraine another ongoing threat to peace and security.

This meeting is not taking place in a business as usual context. Rather, we are now 5 months into President Putin's unprovoked and unjustifiable invasion of Ukraine.

In addition to its conventional attacks, Russia has undertaken many cyber operations against Ukraine, some of which have been attributed publicly by Canada and our allies. This malicious cyber activity directed at Ukraine and others goes against the framework for responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. This ongoing and current threat should be mentioned in the Threats section of the report.

This section needs to include some of the key threats that we and others listed during previous OEWG sessions, in order to set the table for the rest of the report, which will provide recommendations on how to address these threats. We support the suggestions made by several others – today and in pervious OEWG sessions - in this respect.

Tomorrow, Canada will express our views on the other sections of the report.

Thank you.