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United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on “Developments in the Field of Information and  
Telecommunications in the Context of International Security”  
Third Substantive Session, 25 July – 29 July 2022

Agenda Item 5  
**Capacity Building**

New York, 26 July 2022

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Chair,

Allow us to first thank you and your team for the work in producing the draft annual report and guiding States as we discuss these substantive issues.

At the second substantive session of the OEWG, we were able to provide some detailed and specific initiatives on Canada’s cyber capacity building efforts. Many of these have been reflected in the latest draft annual report.

Chair, we welcome for instance, in paragraph 11. c) the encouragement of coordination between online portals, and the consolidating and compiling of a calendar of capacity building programmes. Together with support from regional organizations, these tools can further capacity building coordination efforts, particularly among developing States.

We are also encouraged with the point in paragraph 11. g) on potential strengthening of coordination efforts through interested and relevant stakeholders. As noted several times, many stakeholders have specific expertise and knowledge and work with diverse communities. Their work, contributes towards an effective and sustainable capacity building process.

Certain organizations, such as CyberPeace Institute, play a key role in providing input on the cyberspace landscape such as the impact of cyberattacks, human rights violations, implementation challenges, and implementing the agreed norms in practice. Examples of their work includes platforms and data analysis that has proven instrumental to map the spill over effect of conflicts. This is especially relevant in the context of the unjustifiable and unprovoked attack on Ukraine by Russia. An attack that Canada continues to condemn.



Chair, one point on which we have concerns and seek further clarification is the suggestion in paragraph 11. d) to consider the establishment of a permanent mechanism for capacity-building. As a start, we would strongly suggest that existing initiatives ought to be explored further. As we've noted previously, cyber capacity building coordination bodies such as the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (GFCE), have an established track record and help maintain coordination and coherence as it relates to cyber capacity building efforts.

The GFCE regularly produces roadmaps and publications on how to improve cyber capacity building efforts and develop Confidence Building Measures and standards.

We would also require further explanation and examples, if the various existing initiatives are not sufficient, on what such a UN led mechanism might do or look like.

It also not clear if this is related to paragraph 4 in the listing of the recommended next steps, which would request the UN Secretariat to designate an ICT capacity-building focal point.

We propose that Recommendation 4 (designating an ICT capacity-building focal point) be taken as a topic as part of the Chair's proposal to engage in focused discussions on this topic, potentially at the fourth session.

In conclusion Chair, Canada stands ready to continue to support you in the endeavour of bettering capacity building efforts at the global level.