Honorable Chair, distinguished delegates and stakeholders

I am Sherif Hashem, Chair of the Board of Directors of The Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST). FIRST was established more than 30 years ago, and is the leading organization that brings together over 630 incident response and security teams from over 100 countries. FIRST members are national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (national CSIRTs), private sector and academic CSIRTs as well as Product Security Incident Response Teams (PSIRTs). FIRST champions capacity building and knowledge exchange among incident responders, and produces cybersecurity standards such as CVSS and TLP. FIRST organizes numerous annual conferences, symposia, technical colloquia to further knowledge exchange, capacity building and cooperation at the global and regional levels.

Thank you for inviting us to contribute towards this important discussion. FIRST strongly supports the OEWG and endorses its recommendation. FIRST has contributed to previous efforts of UN GGE and OEWG, and I was a former member of UNGGE in 2012-13 and a panelist at the first OEWG launching meeting in 2019.

Please allow me to express our disappointment that our application for accreditation to participate in the formal OEWG sessions has been rejected, along with several reputable global organizations. Such a rejection happens despite the fact that all states endorsed the 2021 UN GGE report that clearly emphasized the importance of avoiding the politicization of CERTs/CSIRTs and respecting the independent character of their functions, and that the OEWG is committed to multistakeholderism.
FIRST and its members work together to make the Internet a safer and more secure place, even during difficult times. In this sense, FIRST remains committed to the OEWG process and encourages states to keep the promises they made.

FIRST encourages this group to work towards ensuring that:
- Incident responders can continue to collaborate globally, especially in the time of a crisis
- The good of all Internet users and the global Internet safety and security must remain our priority
- An open and inclusive multi-stakeholder approach is essential for successful incident response and security efforts.

To further support the implementation of cyber norms and CBMs, we would like to propose that:

- FIRST can co-organize a hybrid event (workshop/panel) on Incident Response for policy makers, to be held in New York or Geneva.
- FIRST can host a Global Directory of Points of Contact (PoCs) for incident responders and security teams (CERTs, CSIRTS, PSIRTs), in line with the recommendations of the UN GGE and UN OEWG reports, and with a multi-stakeholders inclusive and open approach.

Thank you very much