Statement by the International Chamber of Commerce to the 3rd Substantive Meeting of the OEWG 2021-2025

Good afternoon,

Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to share a few comments on behalf of the International Chamber of Commerce, the institutional representative of 45 million companies in over 100 countries.

First of all, let me express our appreciation to you and your team for the skilful leadership of this process that has lead us to an annual report, which we hope can be adopted by the end of this week to provide a roadmap for our future work together, now with the substantive involvement of stakeholders throughout the remainder of our mandate.

On this point, let me note, Chair, our appreciation to you and all delegations that continuously called for and supported the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the work of the OEWG. We are delighted that many could join us this week but remain disappointed that many were not given this opportunity, despite their proven interest in, and unquestionable value-add to this work.

**With regard to the draft annual report** – many thanks to you and your team, Chair, for providing a zero draft, and to the member states for the very thorough revision and input over the past two days. I will refrain from concrete textual proposals in my intervention, due to shortness of time, and in an attempt to avoid adding more ingredients to your smoothie. But I do wish to underline three ingredients that should not miss:

1. **First, an overall recognition of the role and contribution of stakeholders across all themes discussed by the OEWG.**
   A holistic approach – involving dialogue among business, government, civil society, academia and the technical community – is necessary not only to ensure policy measures are evidence-based and informed by the realities and experience of all stakeholders involved, but also an effective way to lower the risk of unintended consequences from policy decisions. Inclusive dialogue also increases the legitimacy of policies that are adopted because numerous parties have had a stake in their development.

   Over the course of the past year, the OEWG has heard from stakeholders on four separate occasions, thanks to the consultations, and there will be another opportunity this week as well. The annual report should also note these consultations and make reference to the summary of these discussions as input for our collective work going forward.
2. Second, an overview of the growing and evolving ICT security threat landscape that reflects actual threats. In our previous contributions to the OEWG we have offered a number of examples of such threats and both the financial and non-monetary costs they pose to businesses and the economies and societies they serve, including the growing threat of ransomware, and especially ransomware as a service – which should be included in the annual report as an example of a cyber threat to critical infrastructure.

3. Third, a laser focus on concrete measures and actions that enable, at the national level, the implementation of the existing international cybersecurity acquis.

We have spoken before of the need for such a common understanding. On the model of the Sustainable Development Goals, we think of these as the “Cyber Development Goals” – CDGs – that would define the necessary technical, legal and policy capacities needed in order for the acquis to be implemented at the national level, and to facilitate collective action between states and at the regional and international level.

CDGs would primarily be a common capacity building tool at the nation state level and would depend on states’ commitment to systematically track and report on implementation. This would bring clarity to what remains to be done to implement the existing cybersecurity framework in all states and allow the development of targeted capacity building programs to address any challenges to implementation or gaps in capacity.

As always, the International Chamber of Commerce and its global network is committed to providing continued support and meaningful business contribution to the working group and looking forward to further discussing these points.

I thank you.