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**Final Statement**  
**by Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran**  
**At the third substantive session of**  
**the Open-Ended Working Group on security and in the use**  
**of ICTs**

New York, 29 July 2022

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to take the opportunity to express our delegation's sincere gratitude to you, the secretariat, and all delegates for all the contribution extended to this multilateral, inclusive, unique, democratic, and historical process on security and in the use of ICTs.

We share the hope of many other member states that this OEWG will guide the international community toward a just, secure, and sustainable cyberspace.

Based on this understanding, we have participated in the OEWG deliberations in a very constructive manner. Iran has offered its written submissions, outlining the rationale for each suggestion. During this process, Iran also has specified its genuine concerns,

and itemized its priorities, the crossing of which would not be admissible for us.

While we must now conclude the OEWG's first cycle before starting its second, the extent of our success or failure might be determined by a thorough analysis of the road that has come before us, particularly taking into account the first annual progress report. This is crucial because it will serve as our first roadblock for the remainder of the OEWG's existence.

As we stated in the informal consultations and at the beginning of the current substantive session, the zero draft was yet to be balanced by incorporating the principled position of the entire membership. Now almost at the end of the session, we believe the required balance is still missing. Even the revisions, despite slow progress, were unable to include the necessary elements, representing the concerns and interests of all and not just the vocal minority against a sizable silent majority.

In accordance with Resolution 75/240, which established the OEWG, the working method of the group is consensus, and this never entails disregarding views of even a single member state. To put it another way, this process should be sufficiently representative in form, content and negotiation methodology. Listening only to some outspoken member states is not justifiable at all.

Now, the first year of this OEWG and also the experience of the previous OEWG are enough to demonstrate that our way of discussion so far does not align with the necessary working method of the OEWG. As a result, we should revise the practice and revitalize the work of the OEWG.

In this sense, we believe that all the procedural proposals that we made, in the organizational meeting of this OEWG, including thematic discussions, establishing subgroups, text-based negotiation, on different aspects of developing the annual and final report of the OEWG are not only more pertinent, but also demand serious consideration throughout the remainder of the OEWG's existence.

Once again we reiterate the necessity of beginning negotiations based on a rolling text, consistently exploring different avenues of informal diplomacy between the interested delegations, and launching fruitful dialogue to cover the gaps and discuss the differences, all under the direction of the esteemed Chair.

We wish that the report of the OEWG should satisfy all member states to feel the ownership and garner an unquestionable consensus. This can result in a rise in acceptance of and faith in about the method and the content of the process. Not in a way that ultimately each delegation would be put on undesirable situation to take it or leave it.

Last but not least, in light of the latest version of the first annual report, we are obliged to state that our observations and reservations as declared about the final report of the previous OEWG in March 2021 remain valid and apply to this annual report too. We will continue to advocate and follow them in future sessions of the OEWG.

Our distinguished Chair is adamantly believing that the OEWG itself is a confidence-building measure, and we agree with that, but if concerns and interests of all member States would not be considered, such needed confidence and trust as one of the valuable features of the OEWG will gradually be diminished.

I thank you, Mr. Chair!