Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information
and communications technologies

Third Substantive Session

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
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Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

At the outset the Israeli delegation wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation to you Chair and your team's hard work in preparing, organizing and steering this process. Israel commends the work conducted to present a balanced zero draft report. We will now highlight some general thoughts on the text and as we drill down on the different sections we will offer additional concrete amendments and language.

Mr. Chair,

Like others, Israel believes that the annual report should emphasize that we are building our discussions, and the report, on the strong foundation laid by previous GGE's and OEWG consensual reports, as endorsed by the General Assembly.

Mr. Chair,

With regards to the section in the report relating to threats: since we last convened here in NY, we have unfortunately witnessed another rise in cyber risks and threats: as the world continues to struggle with the Covid-19 pandemic consequences more interactions and operations moved online, thus blurring boundaries between public and private and expanding attack surfaces; major geostrategic developments have increased Cyber offensive operations and they are turning more sophisticated and harmful ; Malicious actors are becoming more brazen ; Ransomware attacks turn into a real global pandemic that target governments, critical infrastructure as well as essential services including hospitals and the health systems, water infrastructure and energy supply, while instigating enormous human and economic losses; The technological landscape continues to be more interconnected and embedded in all areas of our lives while the cyber workforce isn't growing to supply the growing demand. All these create ever increasing strategic national and international challenges and threats. Preparing for them and mitigating them will require political will, vision, action and more cooperation across organizations sectors and borders.

In light of the above, Israel believes that the text should include specific reference to threats such as Cybercrime that crosses the threshold by threatening international security and stability - especially Ransomware, critical vulnerabilities as well as threats against Operational Technologies and SCADA.

Mr. Chair,

More than ever the cyber domain continues to pose global challenges that should be faced with multinational and bilateral efforts. Speedy and effective international engagement and cooperation are essential as well. Israel as an internationally acclaimed high-tech hub and a leader in cybersecurity seeks to harness its strengths in cybersecurity to promote global cyber resilience and offer cooperation based on shared values and trust.

Israel attaches great importance to global security and stability in cyberspace, and continues to support and offer its part to the international efforts aimed at enhancing global cyber resilience. We look forward to working with UN member states to identify cyber threats of shared concern to international peace and security and to implement effective measures aimed at diminishing those risks.

Mr. Chair,

The multi-stakeholder community plays an integral role in the issues under discussion in this group, and can provide perspectives that can help us better understand these issues and assist states to reach consensus decisions. Israel therefore supports the consultative role of intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industry, the technical community and academia in our discussions

Finally Mr. Chair, Israel attaches importance to the work of the OEWG and remains committed to working with you and other delegations to achieve a consensus based outcome of the OEWG process.

Thank you Chair.