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

Third Substantive Session

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Statement by
Ms. Tamar Rahamimoff-Honig
Deputy Head, Division for Strategic Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Thank you Chair,

The Israeli delegation wishes to express its gratitude for your hard work and dedication in crafting rev.2 of the zero draft. At this point it looks like your smoothie is beginning to blend much better, maybe there are few small “lumps” we need to address or few flavors to adjust. In this context Israel wishes to support the Chair and work together with member states to make sure we have the best comprehensive report that reflects our progress and the areas of convergence.

Mr. Chair,

With regards to the section on Existing and Potential Threats we were disappointed to see that there is still no reference to the threat of ransomware. Ransomware is an example of cybercrime which increasingly crosses the threshold of impacting international peace and security and specific attention should be given to it. This issue was flagged by multiple delegations, including our own, as an issue which should be clearly reflected in our report.

As to paragraph 12 – we acknowledge that this paragraph is based on agreed language taken from paragraph 17 of the OEWG 2021 consensual final report. However, it needs to be noted that voluntary norms, international law and CBMs are, from a legal stand point, not on an equal footing and cannot, strictly speaking, be all characterized as “obligations”. Two of them, norms and CBMs, are voluntary measures and we believe that the text should reflect that difference in legal standing. We therefore suggest omitting the word “obligations” for an easy fix to this problem.
Moving to the issue of Norms, Rules and Principles of Responsible State Behavior. With regards to paragraph 14(b)– this language isn’t an exact duplication article 29 of the 2021 OEWG final report. Moreover it lacks the overall context in which the previous language was placed. Like other delegations Israel emphasized that our focus at this time should be on the implementation of existing norms. As it currently stands, the implementation of existing norms is uneven at best. If the need later arises, we can address the question of whether additional norms are warranted. Therefore, we suggest adding the words “if the need arises” to read as follow:

“States proposed that additional norms could continue to be developed overtime, if the need arises, noting that...”

Mr. Chair,

On the topic on International Law, with regards to paragraph 15 (a) Israel suggests omitting the list of topics proposed by states for further discussion. This list includes topics of a different nature. Some are recognized principles of international law while others have not yet crystalized in a manner that allows for a ripe and comprehensive discussion. In this sense the international community is not in agreement on this list of topics and their characteristics.

To conclude Mr. Chair,

For the sake of reaching consensus and making sure our smoothie is enjoyable for all, Israel is willing to be as flexible as possible and work together with the Chair and other delegations to find the middle ground and ensure our report it as smooth as possible.

I thank you.