Honorable Chair,

Germany is fully aligned with the statement of the EU. Germany also fully supports the statement on international law delivered by Switzerland including the concrete proposal of reintroducing the International Committee of the Red Cross as a key organization with which member states could convene discussions on specific topics of international law.

Germany further would like to suggest an amendment on the first point under recommended next steps in the international laws section which would read as follows:

States continue exchanging views at the OEWG on how international law applies in the use of ICTs + “with a view to further developing common understandings based on the consensus established with regard to relevant international law topics during previous sessions. In doing so, States aim at explaining and substantiating their positions by having recourse to the established methods of interpretation of international law”.

As a member of the open, informal, cross-regional group to advance CBMs within the OEWG, Germany believes, that this group should now pursue the operationalization of CBMs in a focused manner.

Germany sees the current draft as a very good basis for showing a clear and action-oriented way forward by proposing the establishment of a global Points of Contact directory as a platform to contribute to international peace and stability in cyberspace.

The idea of establishing such a Points of Contact directory has been advanced throughout the process of past GGEs and the last OEWG and has been included in consensus reports going back to the 2013 GGE. It is our conviction, that now is right moment to implement this proposal. However, if implementation seems premature to some delegations the report should reaffirm ongoing and action oriented consideration of this proposal by the OEWG.
The global directory would for the first time allow all UN member states to communicate cyber matters via dedicated Points of contact to build trust among states at a time of heightened tensions and instability in cyberspace.

As a global directory the Points of Contact Network would offer the first opportunity for UN member states which are not members of regional mechanisms to actively engage in exchange of information on cyber matters outside the sessions of this OEWG.

The exact modalities of implementation still need to be worked out. The joint working paper submitted by the informal confidence builders group earlier this month provides some answer. While elaborating this proposal it will be very instructive to consider how the positive examples from regional organizations can be leveraged and built upon for CBMs on the global level, as has also been suggested this morning by Chile and Croatia.

Germany as well as the members of the informal cross-regional group are also dedicated to enhancing the work on operationalizing CBMs during the upcoming inter-sessional period by contributing to the organization of an intersessional event jointly with other interested partners noting that such an event could be designed to also cover other action oriented proposals on the agenda of this group.

On CCB, it is Germany’s view that we should build upon existing institutional structures and bring in the expertise of all stakeholders, including UN and other multilateral organizations as well as civil society actors such as the Global Forum of Cyber Expertise, when it comes to detailed coordination of activities. Germany considers the role of the OEWG in setting the framework for cyber capacity building and suggests elaborating on concrete proposals how this can best be achieved during the upcoming sessions or the intersessional period.

One key aspect that Germany would like to mention is the need to step up efforts of including women professionals in cyber capacity building. This is a point that could be added to the next steps.

As cyber capacity building plays a key role for the sustainable development of states and for achieving the 17 global SDGs, it is essential to build stronger linkages between the cybersecurity and the development communities. We therefore support the reference in the revised draft to better integrate ICT capacity building efforts in the 2030 Agenda and would suggest adding ICT
“security” capacity building to differentiate the specific aspect of cybersecurity from the broader digital development agenda.

Germany would also like to alert you to a side event taking place at lunch-time tomorrow, where Germany and a group of partners including UN member states, the World Bank, the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, the World Economic Forum and the Cyber Peace Institute will be presenting plans to hold a Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building in early 2023 to advance the central theme of “Cyber Resilience for Development”.