



Statement by South Africa in the OEWG on security of and in the use of ICTs, 28 July 2022

Thank you, Chairperson.

South Africa would like to recognise the hard work of yourself and your team in preparing Rev 2 of the draft 2022 Annual Report, and for your tireless efforts to find common ground necessary for us to reach consensus on our mandated annual progress report. We believe that this report should provide a roadmap for concrete steps going forward.

We believe that this text is balanced and brings together the various strands that we have discussed in the first, second and third sessions of the OEWG.

We believe that reaching consensus on these aspects, and also agreeing to discuss these matters in a more focus manner throughout the next sessions, will send a positive message that multilateralism works, and that an Open-Ended, inclusive process is invaluable in this regard.

Chairperson,

On some specific matters, we support reference to the role of regional and sub-regional organisations in implementation of the 11 Norms of Responsible State Behaviour.

We are also encouraged that the report recognises the role that Points of Contact can play in promoting dialogue between States. It is practical and actionable initiative such as the PoC that will prove that the OEWG can itself build confidence and be immediately beneficial to all UN Member States.

The draft also takes into account the importance of narrowing the gender digital divide, and the inclusion of the gender dimension in capacity-building programmes, and my delegation welcomes the retention of this crucial aspect of our work. We believe that the reference to the principles of capacity building is also key to enabling context-specific, needs based capacity building.

Finally, we are eager to retain reference to the discussion on a Programme of Action (PoA) within the context of this OEWG. We would like to see a decision on the possibility of a PoA as an outcome of the deliberations of this OEWG, rather than a parallel track. We note that our discussions here on the 6 pillars of ICT security will provide us with vital elements that could be used in developing the PoA.

My delegation would like to assure you of our continued support and positive approach to the work of the OEWG.

I thank you.

**Statement by South Africa on the adoption of the Draft 2022 Annual Progress Report
of the OEWG on security of and in the use of ICTs, 29 July 2022**

Thank you, Chairperson.

South Africa supports the Conference Room Paper that you circulated last night. We thank both you and your team for your hard work.

The current report incorporated many elements that South Africa supports and strikes the right balance in light of our discussions yesterday.

It is of the utmost importance that we adopt a consensus report to give momentum to the five-year-long process and prove the value of the Open-Ended Working Group.

As the delegations of Brazil and India stated yesterday, we also hope that Member States can rally around the multilateral process at work here in the spirit of cooperation.

I thank you.