Statement

Delivered by
Ms. Vowpailin Chovichien
Counsellor,
Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand

At the Third Substantive Session of the OEWG on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

New York, 25-29 July 2022
Mr. Chair,

1. Thailand aligns itself with the statement on capacity building delivered by Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.

2. Thailand appreciates the efforts of the Chair and his team in producing this latest **draft of the annual progress report**. We also thank all Member States that have provided inputs thus far. We support the Chair’s appeal to all Member States to work together to reach consensus on a final text during this Third Substantive Session, which will help lay the foundation for our important work in the coming years.

3. Thailand would like to focus our discussion on two important topics “capacity building” and “regular institutional dialogue”.

4. **Thailand recognises that capacity building** plays an important role in empowering States and other relevant actors to address malicious cyber activities which continue to surge, including in the implementation of the norms of responsible State behaviour and exploring the applicability of existing international law in the cyber domain.

5. Thailand appreciates that the section on Capacity Building as reflected in the current version of progress report is well drafted, eloquently capturing the many good proposals that have been raised by Member States thus far. We particularly agree with **paragraph 11(a)** on “the mainstreaming of the principles of ICT capacity-building as adopted in the **2021 OEWG report** as well as better integrate ICT capacity-building efforts into the **2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**.” We also agree that the draft progress report includes the recognition of “different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions”

6. We support the proposals to consolidate the capacity building efforts in **paragraph 11(c)** particularly encouraging coordination between online portals to consolidate and compile capacity building programmes, as well as developing a list of **regional and sub-regional centres of excellence** to ensure that States, in particular developing States, have timely information and access to such programmes. We would like to take this opportunity to mention the work of the **ASEAN-Japan Cybersecurity Capacity Building Centre (AJCCBC)** in Bangkok, which has organized more than 20 training courses for over 800 ASEAN officials. Participants have benefited from improving their cyber security skills such as
malware analysis and digital forensics. Thailand appreciates the continued financial support from the Government of Japan in this regard.

7. We also appreciate the inclusion of many good proposals raised by Member States in paragraphs 11(b), with the aim of narrowing the digital divide.

8. On Paragraph 11(d), Thailand believes that a permanent mechanism as a venue to have further conversation on capacity building, potentially within the UN, can play an important role in fostering more efficient and targeted international cooperation. On paragraph 11(e), we support the notion of effective funding for efficient capacity building programmes. Thailand agrees that funding could benefit from integrating with larger development programmes, including through multi-donor trust funds. We also agree with the inclusion in paragraph 11(f) that the States continue to be aware of the need for gender-sensitive capacity building and of gender dimensions in our work.

9. The recommendation section provides clear and feasible guidelines for future work in these areas. We particularly agree with paragraph 2 that the recommendations that States should focus their discussion on funding, a permanent mechanism potentially within the UN, and best practices and lessons-learnt. We support in principle the recommendation in paragraph 4 to request the UN Secretariat designate an ICT capacity-building focal point with the responsibility of fostering the coordination of offers and requests for capacity-building. We also particularly support paragraph 6 on the call for States in a position to do so to continue to support capacity-building programmes, including in collaboration, with regional and sub-regional organizations.

10. Lastly, Thailand would like to emphasise that capacity-building programmes are not only useful but are essential to enhance States’ collective ability to work together to address today’s growing transboundary cyber challenges. Thailand and the Republic of Korea have established a cyber security dialogue, the inaugural meeting of which was held in a virtual format in March. We will continue to explore and welcome further opportunities for bilateral dialogue on cyber security with all interested States.

Mr. Chair,

10. Thailand appreciates the role of the OEWG as an inclusive and open mechanism, which paves the way for us to develop a common understanding in areas
of divergence on ICT security, including on the elaboration of a regular institutional dialogue. Thailand sees the merit of having a regular institutional dialogue that is inclusive and action-oriented, and takes into account the outcomes of our discussion at the OEWG, as well as the GGE. A regular institutional dialogue should serve as an important step towards the achievement of our common goal of maintaining international peace and security in cyberspace. We thank all States that have engaged with us on the proposals for advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs, in particular the Programme of Action (PoA).

11. Thailand generally agrees with the recommendations in paragraph 1 that “States continue exchanging views at the OEWG on regular institutional dialogue...” and in paragraph 2 that “States engage in focused discussions on the elaboration of a PoA within the framework of the OEWG with a view towards its possible establishment as a mechanism...”. Thailand fully supports the recommendation that the discussion on the establishment of a PoA should take place within the OEWG framework – to keep the conversation open and inclusive. We also support the role of the dialogue in advancing capacity building and strengthening the implementation of the norms of responsible State behaviour, including by providing a structure to address the States’ capacity building needs, fostering international assistance and funding and developing guidance and recommendations on how to put norms into practice. This is to ensure that all States have the necessary capacity to effectively and sustainably adhere to their commitments.

12. At the same time, Thailand is of the view that a regular institutional dialogue should also serve to progress other mutual interests.

13. First, it should serve as a global Confidence-Building Measure (CBM). Thus, such regular dialogue needs to be inclusive and promote cross-regional dialogue and voluntary information exchange, taking into account the views and opinions of the Member States, and complement existing regional frameworks, including the growing cross-border challenges in cyberspace.

14. Second, since it is clear from our discussions at the OEWG and the GGE that there remain diverging views amongst States on how international law applies in cyberspace, Thailand would be interested to see how the dialogue could assist us in developing a common understanding in this area. A convergence on such issue is critical towards our goal of maintaining international peace and security.
15. Therefore, while Thailand supports a regular institutional dialogue to have an emphasis on advancing capacity-building, it should **not be limited** to just that, but it should be ready to take on other wide-ranging **current and future challenges**.

Mr. Chair,

16. It is important that this new framework **should not pose excessive burdens on States**, especially developing ones. **Assistance and partnership** should be encouraged to allow States to fulfill their **commitments**. We would be pleased to see these issues reflected clearly in the draft progress report.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.

**********