19 September 2022

Excellency,

I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240 adopted on 31 December 2020.

As delegations will recall, the third substantive session of the OEWG concluded on 29 July 2022 with the consensus adoption of the first Annual Progress Report (APR), which has been issued as the document A/77/275 (annex) dated 8 August 2022. A compendium of statements in explanation of position on the adoption of the APR dated 7 September 2022 has also been issued as document A/AC.292/2022/INF/4.

As we move into the second annual cycle of the OEWG, it is important that we continue to build on the productive and positive atmosphere of the third substantive session to deliver concrete progress on the agreements we have reached in the first APR, and to ensure that we continue to have concrete and substantive outcomes at the fourth and fifth substantive sessions of the OEWG in 2023.

In order to do so, I believe it is important for us to keep up the momentum of discussions during this inter-sessional period, in a focused manner, ahead of the next substantive session which will take place from 6 to 10 March 2023. This is also in line with one of the recommended next steps in the first APR, that is, a request for the OEWG Chair “to convene an intersessional meeting with States, regional and subregional organizations and interested stakeholders as appropriate, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia, no later than the beginning of the fourth session, to discuss topics which could support and foster confidence-building”.

To this end, I will be convening a virtual open-ended informal meeting on Thursday 29 September 2022 at 9.00am (New York time), to share my vision for the work of the OEWG over the course of the coming year and my preliminary plans for the inter-sessional discussions which I intend to convene. The Secretariat will disseminate the link for the meeting in due course. I look forward to engaging with delegations at this meeting, and to hearing your views and ideas on how we can continue to achieve positive outcomes in the year ahead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations once again for their active and constructive participation in the work of the OEWG. I look forward to continuing to work closely with your delegation to advance the work of the OEWG, in accordance with the mandate as established in General Assembly Resolution 75/240.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Burhan Gafoor  
Chair  
Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies  
2021-2025

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations  
New York