Objective:

The key role of Confidence-Building Measures (CBMs) to prevent conflict, avoid misperception, and to reduce tensions in cyberspace as acknowledged in the consensus OEWG 2021 Final Report and six previous GGEs represents an essential pillar of the existing UN framework on responsible state behavior in cyberspace. The establishment of Points of Contact (PoC) networks, transparency measures by sharing relevant information and best practices, as well as cooperative measures have already proven to be effective mechanisms to facilitate communication and to strengthen trust at the regional and sub-regional level. Global efforts to develop and advance CBMs can build upon the vast experience gathered by regional organizations like the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), the Organization of American States (OAS), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Against this background, discussions within recent sessions of the OEWG 2021-2025 and the 2022 Annual Progress Report have achieved considerable progress on the way to operationalizing CBMs at the global level. Two concrete and action-oriented results were a) the agreement for the establishment of a global, intergovernmental points of contact directory building on work already done at the regional level and b) the organization of a dedicated inter-sessional meeting involving all stakeholders taking place before the next OEWG session, which is scheduled for March 2023.

In order to use this positive momentum for the inter-sessional period, the open, informal and cross-regional group of states to advance CBMs within the OEWG (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Mexico, the Netherlands, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia and Singapore) is dedicated to contribute to the organization of the planned inter-sessional meeting, to be held from 5-9 December 2022 at UNHQ in New York with the possibility of hybrid participation, in order to discuss how CBMs can best be advanced at the global level building on the existing multifold regional expertise.

The group recommends that the inter-sessional event dedicates at least 1.5 days to the topic of CBMs in order to raise awareness, particularly with OEWG participating states, about their benefits for peace and security in cyberspace and to make
participants familiar with their practical implementation. The group further suggest including the following topics in the agenda:

a) operationalization of a UN Cyber Points of Contact Directory  
b) the establishment of CBMs for information sharing in the event of cyber incidents  
c) cooperative measures with the private sector and civil society  
d) the contribution of capacity-building activities to the effective implementation of CBMs.

**Draft Agenda:**

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<td>Session 2</td>
<td><strong>Overview on developments and expectations with regard to CBMs in the OEWG process</strong></td>
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<td>Presentation of UNIDIR Report: “Operationalization of CBMs – Review of Points of Contact Directories”</td>
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<td><strong>Regional perspectives: How can CBMs be operationalized to build trust and reduce risk of conflicts in cyberspace?</strong></td>
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<td>Economic Community of West African States</td>
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### Session 3

**Thematic input by stakeholders**
Presentation of a study on CBMs, private sector experiences, civil society’s expectations

**Recommended interventions:**
- Global Forum for Cyber Expertise, The Hague
- Igarape Institute, Rio de Janeiro
- Microsoft
- Research ICT Africa
- DiploFoundation
- European Union Institute for Security Studies, Brussels
- University of Heidelberg/SWP/SIPRI

### Session 5

**Operationalization of different categories of CBMs at the global level:**

a) **CBMs facilitating communication:**
How a global Points of Contact Network can contribute to international peace in cyberspace - Objectives, challenges and next steps

Aspects to be addressed:
- Interplay between regional PoCs and PoCs@UN level,
- Communication in the event of crises, incidents,
- Running communication checks,
- Holding cyber exercises,
- Administrative questions, potential role of UNODA

b) **CBMs facilitating transparency:**

Aspects to be addressed:
- Forms and levels of transparency measures
- Monitoring and verification mechanisms
- Role of civil society and the private sector

c) **CBMs strengthening international cooperation:**

Aspects to be addressed:
- Consultation and Dialogue
- Joint Exercises
- Public-Private Partnerships (e.g. Counter Ransomware Initiative)
- Cyber Capacity Building for CBMs

### Closing

**Wrap up with presentation of workshop results and outlook to fourth session**
**Moderation:** Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group, H.E. Burhan Gafoor, supported by UNODA

**Participants:**

National OEWG delegations, national cyber security authorities, UNODA, UNIDIR, regional and sub-regional organizations, think tanks, businesses, science, civil society.

**Sponsorship options** for participants from Global South countries are currently considered by the group.