18 October 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.

I would like to thank delegations for attending the virtual informal townhall meeting that I convened on 11 October 2022, and for expressions of support for the draft decision proposed by Singapore titled “Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the use of Information and Communications Technologies established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240 of 31 December 2020”. I also welcome the readiness and willingness of all delegations to engage in inter-sessional discussions ahead of the fourth substantive session of the OEWG in March 2023, and the general agreement that these inter-sessional meetings would be important in keeping up the momentum in our process and in ensuring that the work of the OEWG continues to be productive in the coming annual cycle.

In this regard, this letter seeks to inform delegations that the informal inter-sessional meetings for the OEWG have been confirmed for 5 to 9 December 2022 (Monday to Friday). The meetings will be held in New York, with the hybrid option made available for those delegations who are not able to participate in-person.

The inter-sessional meetings will focus on discussions on confidence-building measures, as mandated in the Annual Progress Report, i.e. “the OEWG Chair is requested to convene an inter-sessional 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”.

318 East 49th Street, New York, NY 10017, United States of America | T +1 (212) 826 0840 | F +1 (212) 826 2964 | mfa.gov.sg/newyork
In addition, it is my intention to provide the opportunity for delegations to have focused and in-depth discussions on other topics under the OEWG’s mandate. It is my hope that these inter-sessional meetings will lay the ground for substantive and productive discussions at the fourth and fifth substantive sessions. A programme of work for the December inter-sessional meetings will be circulated in due course.

Once again, I reiterate the importance of safeguarding the spirit of consensus, and continuing to build on the productive and positive atmosphere of the third substantive session, to ensure that we continue to have concrete outcomes at the fourth and fifth substantive sessions of the OEWG in 2023. I look forward to delegations’ continued active and constructive participation in the work of the OEWG.

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