

**[DRAFT] STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ZIMBABWE
AT THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL
ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON
CLUSTER 5: OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: 27 OCTOBER 2025**

Madame Chair,

Zimbabwe aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Group and will make these additional remarks in our national capacity.

Allow me to begin by extending warm congratulations to Ambassador Burhan Gafoor of Singapore in his capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of ICTs, for his exemplary stewardship throughout a rather complex and delicate process.

After five years of inclusive and often painstaking negotiations, the OEWG successfully delivered its Final Report by consensus, thereby laying a solid foundation for the transition to the single-track, action-oriented Global Mechanism. This outcome is not merely procedural but marks the evolution of a truly multilateral platform that reflects the collective will of Member States to address the growing risks and threats in cyberspace while preserving the

principles of the UN Charter and the sovereign equality of all States. Zimbabwe affirms its commitment to participate actively in its dedicated thematic groups, beginning in March 2026.

Chair,

My delegation notes the rising participation of women in OEWG processes, with women comprising 55 per cent of delegates in February 2025 and 53 per cent at the final substantive session. This increase is not incidental, but a reflection of a growing commitment to ensuring the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in digital peace and security. Zimbabwe will continue to promote this trajectory, including through support of the various fellowships and other platforms that facilitate women's leadership in cyber diplomacy.

Zimbabwe also welcomes the consensus reached on the establishment of a United Nations Voluntary Fund, which will provide much-needed support for capacity-building initiatives in the use of ICTs. We stress, in line with the OEWG's reaffirmed principles, that capacity-building must remain demand-driven, based on mutual respect, and aligned with the national priorities of recipient States.

Mr. Chair,

As cyber threats continue to evolve, Zimbabwe remains concerned by the growing sophistication and frequency of such incidents, which increasingly target governmental institutions, financial systems and public information platforms. Equally alarming are cross-border cyber intrusions exploiting vulnerabilities in regional telecommunications networks and data management systems, which can compromise national sovereignty and the integrity of digital governance structures. The spread of disinformation through AI-generated content also carries the potential to distort public discourse, interfere with internal democratic processes and erode social cohesion.

Zimbabwe therefore looks forward to contributing to the work of the Global Mechanism as a proactive partner in shaping norms, building trust, and promoting the peaceful use of ICTs. Zimbabwe reiterates that the digital future must be anchored in peace, development and equality. We remain committed to a cyberspace that empowers rather than divides, connects rather than isolates, and uplifts rather than destabilises.

Thank you.