



## STATEMENT BY SOUTH AFRICA

**AT THE THEMATIC DEBATE ON CLUSTER 5 – OTHER DISARMAMENT  
MEASURES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
OF THE 80<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY (UNGA80)**

**27 OCTOBER 2025**

Chairperson,

South Africa associates with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

South Africa welcomes the adoption by consensus of the Final Report of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (2021-2025), concluding the mandate of the OEWG. The road towards consensus has been steadily building up resulting in the single-track, Member State-led Global Mechanism on developments in the field of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs).

As we move towards the operationalisation of the Global Mechanism from 2026 onwards, we can assure ourselves that we have made every effort to establish a framework for regular institutional dialogue on the issue of the use and security of ICTs within the context of international security, including its five pillars.

We take note of the establishment of the two Dedicated Thematic Groups, including one on capacity building. We also understand that the creation of the two Dedicated Thematic Groups does not preclude the establishment of ad-hoc Dedicated Thematic Groups to consider specific issues, without prejudging the discussions and outcomes of plenary meetings.

Chairperson,

Discussions in the Global Mechanism should consider cooperative measures needed to address the threats against ICT infrastructure, undersea cables, the misuse of new and

emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, cloud computing and quantum computing, among others.

The cumulative and evolving framework of ICT security has included the 11 Rules, Norms and Principles of Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace and with the Global Mechanism, there is an opportunity to further discuss their implementation and other areas of cooperation for Member States. It is our goal to reach some level of parity in understanding the threats to ICT security and their implications for all Member States.

Finally, it is our hope that the Global Mechanism will also facilitate the continued operationalisation and further development of existing initiatives set up under the auspices of the OEWG on ICT and international security, and all other previous efforts. These efforts include the directory global points of contact, and the efforts to secure greater support and capacity building to meet the requirements of a secure, and peaceful ICT landscape. We look forward to further discussions on the operationalisation of the Voluntary Checklist of Practical Actions as well as on the template for requesting assistance, which we consider critical in addressing the capacity challenges of States, particularly in developing countries.

I thank you.