

Contribution by Albania on the Programme of Action (PoA) to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security.

Government of Albania contribution to the United Nations Secretary General report on the Programme of Action (PoA) towards implementing the framework and building resilience in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 77/37.

First and foremost, Albania believes that the United Nations should have an effective instrument to successfully maintain peace and stability in cyberspace, hence Albania expresses its full support for establishing a Programme of Action.

The Government of Albania recognizes the importance of international cooperation and collaboration to address cyber security challenges effectively. In this regard, we believe that the Programme of Action will provide a framework for international cooperation and dialogue on cyber security, including exchange of best practices, development and implementation of existing norms and principles, and strengthening of capacities and capabilities.

At a time when technological advances are dramatically impacting international peace and security, and the potential for misuse by states or non-state actors is significantly growing, the PoA, as a permanent mechanism, could be instrumental in bringing resilience and stability to cyberspace.

Albania is committed to supporting the establishment of the Programme of Action and to actively participating in its work. We will therefore address our expectations on how the Programme of Action could support the implementation of the framework, and support States' capacities and efforts to build resilience based on 5 key principles:

- **Facilitate the exchange of best practices:** We expect the PoA will provide a platform for States to share their experiences and best practices in implementing the framework. This can help States learn from each other, identify good practices, and implement them in their cybersecurity ecosystem.
- **Support capacity building:** The PoA should support States in building their capacities to respond to cyber threats and attacks. This can include training programs, technical assistance, and other forms of support to help States enhance their capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber incidents.
- **Facilitate and encourage the implementation of existing international law and norms of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace:** The PoA should facilitate the implementation of agreed norms and principles for responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, with follow-ups and periodic discussions. This can help creating a common understanding of what is acceptable behaviour in cyberspace and what is not, which can help to prevent cyber conflicts and promote stability.
- **Encourage information sharing:** The PoA should encourage States to share information about cyber threats and attacks, including indicators of compromise, malware samples, and other technical information. This can help to improve situational awareness and enable States to respond more effectively to cyber incidents.

- **Facilitate cooperation and inclusiveness:** The PoA should facilitate cooperation between States, the private sector, academia and non-governmental actors in building resilience against cyber threats. This can include initiatives to promote the adoption of best practices and standards, joint exercises and simulations, and other forms of collaboration, to benefit from the expertise and resources that each actor has.

In summary, our expectations on the Programme of Action as a future forum for regular institutional dialogue, would provide a valuable platform for States to exchange best practices, build capacities, develop norms and principles, share information, facilitate cooperation and inclusiveness. By doing so, the PoA would contribute in strengthening States' resilience against cyber threats, and to the overall goal of maintaining peace and stability in cyberspace.

We reiterate Albania's firm position for a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace where international law, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, fully applies, supporting social, political and economic development.

We believe that multilateral efforts are important in continuing the dialogue between member states and with respect to the modalities for the establishment of a PoA, we intend to continue our efforts, by working with other member states, to consolidate a consensus in favour of this proposal and move towards the possible creation of the PoA when the OEWG concludes its work in 2025.