



National input from Denmark pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/37 on a Programme of action (PoA) to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs in the context of international security

Since 2003, several UN working groups discussed establishing a “regular institutional dialogue” on issues of ICTs and international security.

This institutional dialogue should focus on supporting the implementation of the normative framework, as was also made clear by the 2019-2021 OEWG, which concluded that future institutional dialogue should be “an action-oriented process with specific objectives, building on previous outcomes, and be inclusive, transparent, consensus driven, and results-based”¹.

The PoA would provide a permanent and institutional mechanism to follow up on the implementation of agreed norms, provide and regularly update recommendations and support or promote capacity-building projects of relevance. At the same time, the PoA would be flexible and allow further development of the framework, if appropriate.

The scope of the PoA would be issues related to the use of ICTs in the context of international security. The primary objective would be to contribute to international peace and security by preserving an open, free, stable, secure, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.

The PoA could be based on a political document which would

- (i) reaffirm the commitment of States to the framework for responsible State behaviour,
- (ii) establish a permanent institutional mechanism to advance implementation of this framework and seek multistakeholder cooperation as relevant.

The PoA could hold formal meetings once a year and allow for technical working groups to meet in the intersessional period.

The yearly meetings would adopt decisions and recommendations by consensus, on the basis of the work conducted in the intersessional period by technical working groups dedicated to specific issues.

¹ Final report of the 2019-2021 OEWG, paragraph 74.

The PoA would allow States to voluntarily report on the national implementation of the framework for responsible state behaviour through new or existing mechanisms to identify priorities for norms implementation.

At the meetings of the PoA, it would be possible to adopt and update recommendations for national implementation efforts. Working groups could be created with a view to advance implementation of specific aspects of the framework.

The PoA would support capacity-building related to the implementation of the framework and seek to enhance multistakeholder cooperation and coordination with other relevant initiatives.

The value of collaboration with stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, academia and the technical community, was emphasized by the 2019-2021 OEWG, which concluded that stakeholders themselves “have a responsibility to use ICTs in a manner that does not endanger peace and security”². Private stakeholders also contribute to capacity-building efforts and cooperation with stakeholders can be essential for States to implement their commitments under the framework.

Modalities for the meetings of the PoA and working groups should consequently enable stakeholders to attend formal sessions, deliver statements and provide their valuable input.

On the preparatory work and the establishment of the PoA, intersessional meetings and dedicated sessions of the OEWG should be organized in 2024 and 2025 to continue elaborating the different aspects of the PoA.

Furthermore, UNGA Resolution 77/37 included the option of an international conference to establish the PoA. A conference could be convened in 2025-26 to adopt the founding document of the PoA on the basis of the preparatory work done up to this point, including in the 2021-2025 OEWG. Participation by relevant stakeholders should be provided for at this conference.

² Final report of the 2019-2021 OEWG, paragraph 10.