

**Views of the Republic of the Philippines on the
Programme of Action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of
information and communications technologies in the context of international
security in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 77/37**

A regular institution dialogue that would facilitate a permanent forum for all United Nations Member States is needed now more than ever given the evolving nature of information and communications technologies in the context of international peace and security.

The Philippines finds merit in the creation of a Programme of Action (PoA) to advance responsible State Behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security. However, the Philippines is of the view that the creation of a permanent regular institutional dialogue should be decided by the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 (OEWG on ICT 2021-2025). Therefore, the Philippines was constrained to abstain in the adoption of General Assembly Resolution 77/37 entitled, "Programme of Action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security".

The Philippines is of the view that the OEWG on ICT 2021-2025 is the most appropriate platform to discuss the scope, structure, and content for the PoA given the inclusive, transparent, and consensus-based mandate of the Group. The first Annual Progress Report (APR) of the Group, adopted by consensus, decides to convene intersessional meetings to advance and deepen discussions on specific proposals, including proposals on the establishment of a permanent regular institution dialogue, on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies. This provides a venue for Member States to have an inclusive dialogue and find convergence on the future of the regular institution dialogue.

The Philippines therefore reaffirms the principles contained in paragraph 74 of the consensus outcome document of the Open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security adopted by the Group in 2021 that "any future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations should be action-oriented process with specific objectives building on previous outcomes, inclusive, transparent, consensus-driven, and results-based."

Aside from these core principles, the Philippines maintains the view that any future dialogue should take into account the importance of narrowing the "gender digital divide," promote the effective and meaningful participation and leadership of women in decision-making process, and be gender-sensitive.

The Philippines also reaffirms the conclusion reached by the Group in 2021 that the future dialogue should inter alia, raise awareness, build trust and confidence, and encourage further study and discussions on areas where no common understanding has yet emerged and the recognition of the utility of exploring mechanisms dedicated to following-up on the implementation of the agreed norms and rules as well as the developments of further ones, as contained paragraph 73 of the same consensus outcome document of the Group in 2021.

Therefore, the Philippines supports a future regular institutional dialogue that would advance responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs in the context of international security, and would, inter alia, meet the following:

- Provide capacity-building programs that enable States to develop the skills, human resources, policies, and institutions in order to facilitate their genuine participation in discussions on ICTs in the context of international security and their ability to address vulnerabilities in their critical infrastructure. Capacity-building programs should be anchored on the principles as consensually agreed by all Member States in the outcome document of the 2021 OEWG report which includes process and purpose, partnerships, and people, including the integration of capacity-building efforts into the 2023 Sustainable Development Agenda;
- Facilitate the understanding of existing and potential threats, and how to address them;
- Provide concrete steps on how to implement the existing, rules, norms, and responsible State behaviour, and further discussion on other possible norms in view of the evolving threats in ICTs that would facilitate a more transparent and predictable cyberspace and maintain peace in this area;
- Deepen understanding on the applicability of international law, and if gaps still exist, facilitate a core group discussion on how to address this issue, e.g., possible development of a normative document or legally-binding instrument that would satisfy the special characteristics of the ICT environment;
- Provide practical guide that States can take to facilitate information sharing, table top exercises, coordination in the field of ICTs in matters related to international peace and security.

The Philippines is of the view that the future regular institutional dialogue on ICTs in the context of international security should be decided by the OEWG on ICT 2021-2025 and should not be launched or convened in parallel to the ongoing OEWG on ICT 2021-2025. Proliferation of discussions on this important matter that would adversely affect the participation of small delegations should be avoided, unless otherwise decided by consensus by the OEWG on ICT 2021-2025. The discussions on the future dialogue should also take into account the outcome documents of the OEWG on ICTs in 2019 and 2025 and developments on the annual progress reports of the OEWG on ICT 2021-2025, and reports of the group of governmental experts in 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2021.