

Republic of Korea

National Views on the Scope, Structure, and Content for the Programme of Action to Advance Responsible State Behaviour in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies in the Context of International Security and the Preparatory Work and Modalities for its Establishment

I. Introduction

1. Information technologies and means of telecommunication can be used for purposes inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security. Thus Member States have expressed concern over the increasing number of, and damages caused by, malicious activities having occurred through the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs), which calls for broad international cooperation to respond to such threats effectively.
2. Under the auspices of the United Nations, Member States have joined together to facilitate international cooperation to maintain peace and security in the field of ICTs and recalled the assessments and recommendations from the 2010, 2013, 2015, and 2021 Groups of Governmental Experts (GGE); the 2021 Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security; and the first annual progress report of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 (2021-2025 OEWG).
3. Building on the achievements, the 2021-2025 OEWG discussed the establishment of a regular institutional dialogue. To this end, Member States proposed an establishment 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.

4. Endorsed by General Assembly Resolution 77/37, the proposed PoA, as a permanent, inclusive, action-oriented mechanism, will serve as a regular institutional dialogue on developments in ICTs in the context of international security.

II. Objectives and Scope

5. As a framework operating under the auspices of the United Nations, the PoA should respect the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.
6. The PoA should aim to achieve the following objectives:
 - 1) Maintain peace and stability and promote an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful information and communications technology environment.
 - 2) Promote active and substantive cooperation between States in preventing conflicts arising from the use of ICTs through confidence-building measures, such as regular dialogues and engagement of stakeholders, which seek to enhance predictability while reducing misperception and miscalculation to mitigate tensions and escalations in cyberspace.
 - 3) Bridge the digital gap between States through building capacities of the global community in countering cyber threats, and to this end, support capacity-building efforts to implement and advance commitments to be guided by the framework for responsible State behaviour, which includes voluntary and non-binding norms for the application of international law to the use of ICTs by States.
7. As a First Committee mechanism, the PoA should seek to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs in the context of international security.
8. The PoA should not duplicate the existing mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations and, to this end, will complement and support the activities operating in the 2021-2025 OEWG under the mandate of Resolution 75/240.

III. Structure

9. The PoA should be an inclusive mechanism that is open to the participation of all

Member States. As an inclusive, open, and consensus-based mechanism, the PoA should ensure that all Member States can exercise their right to take part in its decision-making process.

10. States are primarily responsible for maintaining a secure and peaceful ICTs environment and should therefore retain a central role in the PoA.
11. Notwithstanding, recognizing that the development of ICTs cuts across multiple domains and disciplines and renders it difficult for States to take the sole responsibility for maintaining a secure and peaceful ICTs environment and thus, all stakeholders have a responsibility to use ICTs in a manner that does not endanger peace and security, the PoA should be committed to engaging stakeholders, including inter-governmental organizations, regional organizations, civil society, the private sector, academia, and the technical community, in a systematic, sustained, and substantive manner.
12. The PoA should support transparent and non-discriminatory principles inviting any stakeholders to the relevant activities of the PoA.
13. The PoA could convene the following meetings to facilitate discussions and examine the progress made with regard to the implementation of the PoA:
 - 1) Annual official meeting to share States' views and adopt actionable decisions and recommendations by consensus, either in the form of a report or a Chair's statement based on the work conducted in the intersessional working group meetings and multistakeholder meetings.
 - 2) Meetings of intersessional working groups, such as legal working groups, technical working groups, capacity-building working groups, etc., dedicated to a specific area with relevance to the objective of the PoA, may be convened through deep-dive discussions between experts from States to adopt a work plan document that provides guiding materials to the annual official meeting.
 - 3) Intersessional multistakeholder meetings to share views of civil society, the private sector, academia, and the technical community to further add value to the discussions at other States' meetings.
 - 4) Any other meetings or consultations as the Member States deem necessary.

14. The meetings should seek to adopt a report or document to share views and provide references for future meetings. Any reports or documents formulated as a result of official meetings convened in the PoA must be based on consensus.
15. All Member States should be encouraged to submit their national views or national implementation reports with regard to their implementation of framework for responsible State behaviour, including norms, rules, principles, international law, confidence-building measures, capacity building, and any efforts promoting peace and stability in cyberspace.
16. The PoA may utilize existing resources, such as the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research Cyber Policy Portal, as an online repository to collect the views of Member States and multistakeholders.
17. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs may provide Secretariat services to the PoA.

IV. Content

17. The PoA could discuss matters including but not limited to:
 - 1) Existing and potential threats in the ICT environment, especially prevalent in recent years, and discussing how they endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.
 - 2) Implementation of norms and international law to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs to identify how existing norms and international law can be applied to cyberspace in practice.
 - 3) Capacity-building efforts in supporting States build resilience in countering threats from the use of ICTs.
 - 4) Exploring new and existing confidence-building measures to prevent conflict and reduce tensions in cyberspace and, to this end, dedicated support to global confidence-building measures under the auspices of the United Nations.
18. Recognizing existing initiatives for funding capacity-building efforts on security in the use of ICTs, Member States could consider identifying and contributing to a

specifically targeted capacity-building on security in the use of ICTs through potential coordination and integration with existing development programmes and funds. Member States could also consider implementing a voluntary trust fund that may be established at the PoA which contributes as an instrument supporting activities that promote responsible State behaviour.

V. Preparatory Work and Modalities for Establishment

19. One option that may be considered is to hold the first preparatory meeting during the 2021-2025 OEWG sessions in 2024 through a dedicated session on the establishment and operationalization of the PoA and, to this end, consider the possibility of drafting a founding document of the PoA by 2025, to be submitted to the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly. /END/