

Republic of Korea

First Committee of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly

Cluster 5 (Other Disarmament Measures & International Security)

Madame Chair,

The unprecedented and rapid technological advancement calls for our commitments to address both the remarkable opportunities that the technologies create, as well as the significant challenges they may pose. Notable progress has been made, particularly in the area of cybersecurity, through the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies. This includes the launch of the Global Points of Contact Directory and the introduction of Voluntary Checklist of Practical Actions. However, much work remains to be done. In this respect, my delegation would like to highlight the following points.

First, we welcome the successful conclusion of the OEWG's 8th substantive session and, in particular, the consensus adoption of the 3rd Annual Progress Report (APR). My delegation once again commends the Chair and the Secretariat for their tireless efforts and leadership in building consensus. We will continue to contribute constructively to the framework for responsible state behavior.

Second, we must remain vigilant to the constantly evolving cyber threat landscape. In this regard, we draw the attention of Member States to the alarming trend of cryptocurrency thefts around the world. It is estimated that over \$8.5 billion worth of cryptocurrency was stolen globally between 2021 and 2023.

The final report of the UN Security Council 1718 Committee Panel of Experts (S/2024/215) highlights that funds obtained through such thefts are being used to finance illegal nuclear and other WMD programs. We must swiftly move to address this grave threat.

Third, the Republic of Korea believes that all stakeholders should be involved in addressing the complexities of emerging technologies. We welcome the OEWG's recognition of the importance of engaging various interested parties, including businesses, non-governmental organizations, and academia, in a systematic, sustained and substantive manner.

Madame Chair,

In addition to developments in cyberspace, artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping various sectors, including the military domain. The Republic of Korea, in cooperation with the Netherlands, Singapore, Kenya, and the United Kingdom, hosted the 2024 REAIM (Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military domain) Summit in Seoul, convening a diverse stakeholders from governments, industry, academia, civil society and international organizations.

Discussions at the Summit explored AI's impact on international peace and security, identifying key principles and measures for implementing responsible AI in the military, and envisioning a future governance and international cooperation. These discussions culminated into the outcome document titled "Blueprint for Action," which was supported by 63 states.

Based on its firm commitment towards responsible AI in the military domain, the Republic of Korea, together with the Netherlands, has tabled a new resolution titled “Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and its Implications for International Peace and Security” to this Committee.

The resolution will build on and complement ongoing multilateral processes, and seek the views of States and stakeholder groups on the opportunities and challenges posed by the application of artificial intelligence in the military domain. These views will be consolidated in a substantive report of the Secretary-General for the 80th session of the General Assembly, and will make an important step towards ensuring responsible application of AI in the context of international peace and security.

The Republic of Korea calls upon all Member States to co-sponsor this resolution and we look forward to its adoption with overwhelming support.

Thank you.

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