Georgia’s contribution to the UNSG report on 78/237 “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2023

Regarding the future regular institutional dialogue on the use of information and communications technologies under the auspices of the UN: Georgia views the “Programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communication technologies in the context of international security” as the optimal approach to advance UN initiatives regarding cybersecurity and responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

In a current security environment with unpredictable and rapid geopolitical developments, certain actors threaten the rules-based international order by using a combination of conventional and unconventional methods of warfare. Regrettably, there are cases, when some actors breach international law through cyber operations. The global community must persist in holding such actors accountable for their illicit and unacceptable conduct in cyberspace, ensuring that legal consequences follow such actions.

The PoA could function as an appropriate platform for targeted dialogues on the application of the international law in cyberspace after the culmination of the current OEWG in 2025.

We advocate for the PoA to serve as a unified framework within the UN 1st Committee dedicated to addressing cybersecurity concerns, providing a reliable structure conducive to action-oriented initiatives and tangible advancements.

The absence of capabilities on national, regional, and global scales presents a significant challenge. The PoA should therefore aid national endeavors in enacting the normative framework and offer capacity-building assistance to narrow the digital gap.

Georgia welcomes the establishment of a global intergovernmental Points of Contact directory. This initiative marks a significant step forward in enhancing international cooperation and coordination in the realm of cybersecurity in the UN context.

Given the rapid pace of ICT evolution, the future international framework must possess ample flexibility to ensure its future relevance. This international forum should incorporate a mechanism enabling the periodic revision of its framework through consensus facilitated by regular plenary meetings or review conferences. These gatherings could reassess the existing framework and, if suitable, decide to enhance or develop it further.

Georgia firmly supports the transparent and inclusive multistakeholder approach, emphasizing the active involvement of both state and non-state actors in the framework of the institutional dialogue on these matters.