SINGAPORE’S SUBMISSION OF VIEWS PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/78/237

Singapore remains committed to an open and inclusive global conversation on cybersecurity, and it is in this regard that we see commitment by all States to a single-track future regular institutional dialogue as being of utmost importance. A single-track future regular institutional dialogue is crucial in fostering universal acceptance and recognition of the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs agreed by all member States at the UN since 1998, and in providing a common global platform for the further development and implementation of this framework. In this regard, it is important that all States are able to focus their efforts on a single process to ensure that discussions remain substantive and not suffer fragmentation. Small and developing States with limited resources would also not be able to sustainably participate in dual-track, parallel processes.

2 Singapore believes we should continue to build upon the four common elements of regular institutional dialogue agreed in the Second Annual Progress Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of ICTs 2021-2021 (OEWG) (paragraph 55, A/78/265) to build the trust and confidence we need to reach consensus on a single-track permanent mechanism.

3 It is important that States use the limited remaining time and space to work on building a common vision on the way forward for regular institutional dialogue within the current OEWG. The priority task at hand, should be consensus-building. In this regard, Singapore supports the proposal made by Brazil at the Seventh Substantive Session of the OEWG for a moratorium on the tabling of resolutions relating to ICT security at the UNGA First Committee until the current OEWG concludes its work in 2025. We support that the Chair of the OEWG continue to convene discussions on the way forward for regular institutionalised dialogue, with a view of further developing and refining a consensus proposal for regular institutionalised dialogue.

4 As a next step, we believe that it would be productive for the current OEWG to agree on the scope, structure, objectives and frequency of meetings within the future mechanism. Answering these practical questions is a logical way to build on the common elements that all States have already agreed upon. Doing so will also give delegations, particularly smaller delegations with limited resources, early clarity on their work after 2025, allowing them to begin the planning necessary to optimise their participation in a meaningful manner. To
ensure a sustainable foundation for a permanent universal, single-track mechanism, Singapore also emphasises that the design of the future mechanism must be sufficiently broad and accommodating to facilitate continuing and future discussions on the proposals and priorities of all delegations. In particular, it would be useful to periodically review the operations of the permanent mechanism to ensure our approaches are relevant to the dynamic operating threat landscape. In this regard, Singapore supports the approach and structure presented in the Chair’s Discussion Paper of 20 February 2024 on Draft Elements for the Permanent Mechanism. Singapore looks forward to working constructively with all delegations on further refining these draft elements with a view to adoption by consensus in the third Annual Progress Report of the current OEWG.