

Input into Points of Contact Directory Background Paper by Japan

The POC directory should be a global, intergovernmental platform with the participation of a large number of States. The more States nominate POCs and join the POC directory, the more effective it will be to facilitate coordination and communication among States, including in the event of an urgent or significant ICT incident, to build confidence among States, to reduce tensions, and to prevent misunderstandings and misperceptions that may arise from ICT incidents. Therefore, it is essential to ensure broad participation and implementation in the initial operation of the POC directory.

Based on this idea, Japan considers that the most important capability required to participate in the POC directory is to be able to respond as quickly as possible, especially to urgent or significant ICT incidents, and to effectively manage the incidents, so that each State can respond to these incidents appropriately. Japan will continue advancing relevant capacity-building cooperation with various countries. Additionally, Japan would like to emphasize that all registered contact information should be secured by each State to ensure the security of the POC directory.

On this occasion, Japan would like to express some ideas on the operationalization of the POC directory. In addition to the above capabilities required to participate in the POC directory, it is also desirable that the function of the POC directory itself be simple in order to facilitate the broader participation and ensure implementation of the POC directory at its initial stage. If the POC directory mechanism is as simple as possible, it will be easier for each State to participate in the POC directory.

Moreover, in order to accelerate the operationalization and utilization of the POC directory, it would also be helpful to accumulate practices through ways such as ping tests, tabletop exercises to simulate practical aspects of participating in a POC directory, and regular in-person or virtual meetings of POCs to share practical information and experiences, as mentioned in the Annex B of the second annual progress report.

Finally, the Programme of Action, as an action-oriented, inclusive and permanent mechanism, should eventually be a good institution to serve as a platform for the implementation and further elaboration of confidence-building measures including the POC directory.