15 December 2022

Excellency,

I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240 adopted on 31 December 2020.

I would like to thank all delegations who participated in the OEWG informal inter-sessional meetings from 5 to 9 December 2022. We had a very productive and substantive exchange of views on a range of topics under the OEWG’s mandate. I was very encouraged by the tone and constructive approach taken by delegations; and I particularly appreciate the focused approach on concrete outcomes for the next Annual Progress Report.

The discussions at the informal, inter-sessional meetings have given all of us a preliminary overview of potential areas for convergence and issues that require further discussion. My sense is that there is general willingness amongst delegations to move forward with the details on the establishment of a global, intergovernmental points of contact (POC) directory, as well as continue our focused discussions on other issues, with the aim of capturing concrete progress as much as possible. I am cautiously optimistic that we can make further progress, provided all delegations continue to adopt a pragmatic as well as a step-by-step approach to building convergence.

As I indicated at the closing of the informal inter-sessional meetings, I intend to prepare, in my capacity as Chair of the OEWG, an elements paper on the POC Directory. This elements paper is intended to serve as a working draft for further discussion. I plan to circulate this elements paper in the first week of February 2023, and to hold a virtual informal “townhall meeting” of the OEWG on 15 February 2023, in order to hear views and feedback on the elements paper. It is my assessment that an informal meeting in mid-February is essential to prepare the ground for deeper discussions at the 4th substantive session of the OEWG in March 2023.
I enclose for your attention a schedule of OEWG meetings leading to the 5th substantive session in July 2023, so as to enable all delegations to plan their work accordingly for the next few months. As always, I will be available to meet with any delegation or group of delegations to discuss issues of importance to them.

As we move into the second annual cycle of the OEWG’s work, it is important that we continue to build on the productive and positive momentum of the 3rd substantive session and of the inter-sessional meetings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank delegations once again for their active and constructive participation in the work of the OEWG. I look forward to continuing to work closely with all delegations to advance the work of the OEWG, in accordance with the mandate as established in General Assembly Resolution 75/240.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Burhan Gafoor
Chair
Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Enclosure: Annex on 2023 OEWG Meeting Schedule
### 2023 OEWG MEETING SCHEDULE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Last week of January 2023</td>
<td>Circulation of UNODA’s background paper on POC directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First week of February 2023</td>
<td>Circulation of Chair’s “Elements Paper” on POC directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 15 February 2023</td>
<td>Virtual informal “townhall meeting” to hear first reactions to Chair’s</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Elements Paper” on POC directory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 1 March 2023</td>
<td>Chair’s Informal Consultations with Stakeholders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 2 March 2023</td>
<td>Hybrid “informal, informal” consultations with Member States on POC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>directory (to continue on 3 March 2023 if necessary)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 - 10 March 2023</td>
<td>Fourth Substantive Session of the OEWG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2023</td>
<td>Likely Informal consultations and/or inter-sessional meetings (tbc)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 - 21 July 2023</td>
<td>Fifth Substantive Session of the OEWG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

...