



KINGDOM OF BELGIUM

Federal Public Service

Foreign Affairs,

Foreign Trade and

Development Cooperation

**Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and
communications technologies 2021-2025**

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**Working Paper on a victim-based approach
by the Kingdom of Belgium**

People and individuals are suffering from cyberattacks. People die in hospital because of ransomware or cyberattacks. People are deprived of basic services because of cyberattacks on critical infrastructures. We should also put the victims of cyberattacks, human sufferings and its humanitarian impact at the centre of our attention. Therefore we recommend to envisage a **victim-based approach in our work.**

Belgium recommends **the creation of a Committee on Victim Assistance within the future regular institutional dialogue (RID)** as an action-oriented instrument. The Committee on Victim Assistance would :

- 1. Help States increase their understanding of the harm to victims and the human suffering caused by cyberattacks;**
- 2. Exchange on best practices on how to mitigate them ;**
- 3. Support and guide States in their national efforts to strengthen and advance victim assistance.**

Modalities would be further elaborated.

