

Mr. Chair,

My delegation would like to thank you for the convening of these informal intersessional discussions. It is our hope that focused and interactive discussions based on the guiding questions you put forward will increase convergence on how to implement and develop the existing framework for responsible behavior of states in cyber space.

When it comes to confidence-building measures, a functioning and up-to-date directory of points of contact could be an important asset to improve communications between states, avoid misunderstandings in case of suspicious ICT activities and help mitigate the harm caused by malicious activities. We therefore welcome today's dedicated discussion on how to move the possible establishment of the directory forward.

In our view, the establishment of such a directory should be done by the General Assembly, on the basis of a draft elaborated by the OEWG, which would naturally occur by consensus. Participation in the directory should be voluntary, though we would like to point out that the added value of a directory correlates with the number of states actively participating and providing input. States should, therefore, be encouraged to participate and nominate national PoCs.

We see merit in establishing both diplomatic and technical points of contact as the communications in both fields can be quite specific – having an appropriate Point of Contact can therefore facilitate effective and efficient communication.

Overall, two principles should be observed in the implementation: first, information shared must remain confidential – this requires adequate ICT security measures for the website on which the directory should be established and which would only be accessible for members of the PoC Directory. Second, existing best practices in regional and sub-regional organisations should be taken up during the course of the directory's establishment. A Global PoC Directory should also build upon and reinforce existing regional and sub-regional PoC systems. MS should be free and even encouraged to nominate PoCs of existing regional or sub-regional systems to serve also in the future Global PoC Directory. A clear added value of a global Directory would be to involve also States who, hitherto, are not members of a regional or sub-regional network.

Regarding the information to be shared, we believe that providing the name, function, email address and phone numbers of the contacts as well as the entity they belong to.

This would facilitate the establishment of direct contacts. States should inform the directory of any changes regarding their representation as soon as possible.

As regards the maintenance of the directory, we see the UN Secretariat (UNODA) as the best body to discharge of these responsibilities – this will require adequate funding which should be borne by all member states. The Secretariat could also play an important role in conducting exercises of the PoC; from time to time, members of the PoC Directory should also meet. The Secretariat could also play a role in identifying and facilitating capacity building activities in support of individual countries establishing their PoCs and in support of the entire PoC Directory.

We hope that these points can be useful for you, Mr. Chair as well as for the secretariat in its development of the background information paper which we await with interest.

I thank you!