

In the Name of God

**Iran's submission**

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

4 - 8 March 2024, United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ), New York

**On**

**Confidence building measures**

**Mr. Chair,**

In response to your guiding question about additional CBMs that can be added to the initial list of voluntary global CBMs, my delegation would like to propose the following measures:

**First**, developing a consensus universal terminology on technical ICT terms: the lack of common understanding constitutes a major potential source of mistrust in the ICT environment. In paragraph 42 of the second APR, States are encouraged, on a voluntary basis, to share national views on technical ICT terms and terminologies to enhance transparency and understanding between States.

While sharing national views in themselves could serve as a confidence-building measure, as the next concrete and important step forward,

these national views could be the basis for further discussions by the OEWG at its upcoming sessions to develop a consensus universal terminology in the field of ICT security.

developing a consensus terminology is one of the concrete and specific CBMs that are currently adopted by some regional organizations in the ICT security domain and could be expanded to the global, inter-governmental context.

A step-by-step approach could be applied to the elaboration of a universal terminology in the field of ICT security. OEWG could start by preparing a list of terms that are used in consensus UN documents, and then proceed to agree upon definitions of the basic terms from this list (for example, ICTs, ICT-infrastructure, ICT environment, and malicious use of ICTs).

In this regard, we share with the statements made by Kazakhstan and Brazil concerning the importance of developing terminology in technical ICT terms.

**Second**, cooperation between States on capacity building to close the digital divide: in line with many other delegates who have taken the floor before my intervention, we also welcome this important confidence-building measure, as outlined in the chair's guiding questions based on discussions at recent sessions of the OEWG.

Since the very act of collaborating to implement joint projects could build confidence and trust, my delegation has underscored, throughout previous OEWG sessions, that cybersecurity capacity building could be a constructive confidence-building measure.

In the second APR, the OEWG recognized that capacity-building is an important confidence-building measure, and is a topic that cuts across all the pillars of its work.

**Third**, unilateral coercive measures against other States in the ICT environment pose serious threats to trust and confidence in the ICT environment. Therefore, it is an important confidence-building measure that States refrain from adopting any measure that restricts or prevents universal access to the benefits of ICTs.

**Fourth**, developing a legally binding instrument within the United Nations. This measure which effectively promotes the exclusively peaceful use of information and communications technologies, ensures the prevention and settlement of inter-state conflicts in the global information space, and provides a framework for cooperation among States holds particularly significant potential as a confidence-building measure. such an instrument can substantially enhance mutual trust and understanding among States, thereby contributing to a more stable and secure global information environment.

**Mr. Chair,**

During the current and previous OEWG, States concluded by consensus that the OEWG itself serves as a CBM, providing a forum for discussing issues on which there is agreement and issues on which there is not yet agreement.

As a result, what other significant confidence-building measures could be recommended, in addition to the evolution of the OEWG into a permanent mechanism for ensuring the security of information and communications technologies? the OEWG that has proved in practice its efficiency and relevance is the most appropriate format for future regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations. In this regard, we would like to recall the “concept paper on a permanent decision-making Open-ended Working Group on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies” proposed by a group of countries.

**I thank you Mr. Chair**

