21 June 2024

Dear colleagues,

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.

Ahead of the eighth substantive session of the OEWG taking place from 8 to 12 July 2024 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (UNHQ), I am pleased to invite interested stakeholders, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia, to an informal dialogue on Wednesday, 3 July 2024 from 09:00-12:00pm EST (New York local time) via Microsoft Teams. The connection link will be conveyed to registered participants in due course.

I am convening this informal dialogue in my capacity as Chair of the OEWG as part of my commitment to systematic, sustained and substantive engagement with stakeholders, including through providing opportunities for continued interaction between the stakeholder community and States. This latest informal dialogue builds on the various modes of stakeholder engagement I have convened over the past three years, including focused dialogues on the topics of existing and potential threats, confidence-building, capacity-building, and rules, norms and principles of responsible State behaviour; more wide-ranging dialogues relating to the OEWG’s Annual Progress Reports (APR); as well as stakeholders’ active participation in events such as the Global Roundtable on ICT Security Capacity-Building and the OEWG’s dedicated intersessional meetings.

As delegations work towards the consensus adoption of a third APR at the eighth substantive session in July 2024, your suggestions will provide delegations with valuable perspectives to consider in the course of their deliberations. For this
informal dialogue, it is my intention to focus our discussions on how stakeholders can work together with States to contribute to the implementation of the concrete, action-oriented proposals made by States at the sixth and seventh substantive sessions across the various pillars of the OEWG’s mandate, as captured in the Zero Draft of the third APR. Specifically, I invite stakeholders to consider which proposals the stakeholder community, given its unique expertise, resources, knowledge and experiences, can most meaningfully and effectively contribute to the implementation of, and suggest specific ways in which stakeholders could potentially work together with States to do so.

In order to ensure the most productive use of our meeting time, I urge all speakers to focus their interventions on the topic of the focused discussion. I would also encourage you to organize yourselves in groups or coalitions focused on supporting specific proposals or themes and that could speak as a group on your behalf.

The registration details are enclosed. I also encourage you to send any written input to cyberOEWGChair@gmail.com and prizeman@un.org, to be made available on the dedicated OEWG webpage (https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-information-and-communication-technologies-2021).

I look forward to a substantive and productive engagement with you.

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

- Annex A – Registration Details
REGISTRATION DETAILS

If you wish to participate in the virtual informal dialogue on 3 July 2024, please register at the Microsoft Forms link provided below no later than 12 noon (New York local time) on Monday, 1 July 2024. Each participant should register individually at the following link: https://forms.office.com/e/73WAgbDxxA. Confirmed participants will receive login details prior to the meeting.

Additional Information

More information on the OEWG 2021-2025 can be found on the dedicated OEWG webpage (https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-information-and-communication-technologies-2021).

Specific queries may be directed to Ms. Katherine Prizeman, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, prizeman@un.org.