

**Statement by the Arab Republic of Egypt  
during the 7<sup>th</sup> substantive session of the OEWG on ICTs 75/240  
(4-8 March 2024), New York**

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**Regular Institutional dialogue:**

- 1- In the outset, let me express our appreciation to you Mr. Chairman for sharing the draft elements paper on the Future Regular Institutional Dialogue (RID), which we believe is a good basis for further negotiations, and while it's still under consideration, let me share with you our preliminary observations in this context:
- 2- We can positively consider the proposed 3 pillars reflected in section 7.A entitled "Functions", however they should serve as the scope and mandate of the future mechanism. Let me explain how these pillars could represent a comprehensive mandate and scope for a future single track Mechanism in this domain:
  - I- Advancing implementation of the existing agreed Framework of Responsible State behavior and the consensual related outcomes including this OEWG: Future Mechanism (FM) should increase the level of commitment of member states to the agreed normative Framework, through the periodic voluntary reporting by member states of the agreed Framework (templates should be flexible and agreed by Member States), this would take us to the next pillar;
  - II- Developing the existing framework: FM should identify the gaps challenges of the existing framework, through the periodic assessment and review of State's voluntary implementation report as well as to promote actionable recommendations to respond to these gaps. In addition to that the future mechanism should ensure the continuity of

discussions on the outstanding matters, including International Law through the establishment of subsidiary informal working or expert groups upon the agreement of member states.

III- Promoting capacity building: In addition to its cross cutting nature of the ICT agenda, Capacity building should become the corner stone of the Future mechanism, as an enabler for the effective implementation of the agreed framework, through the provision of concrete and sustained support for states based on their needs and assessments, consistently with the agreed capacity-building principles contained the 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr and the outcome report of the former OEWG, that could guide and assist states in implementing the agreed framework, while establishing a trust-fund to support these efforts is crucial.

3- In this vein, with such a comprehensive mandate, there is no need for establishing multiple or parallel processes in this domain under the UN auspices. Moreover, we believe that the Future Mechanism should ensure the operationalization and review, as appropriate of the established cyber tools (PoCs directory and all other proposals to be adopted by this OEWG).

4- With regards to the meeting periodicity of the future mechanism, we share the view point that it should convene the following:

- a) **Biennial meetings: (every two years)** to implement the Programme of Work adopted by the Review Conference and follow-up on the implementation of the agreed norms, rules, and principles by the Member States through reviewing their periodical voluntary National Implementation Reports.
- b) **Review Conferences:** to be convened **every Six years**; would focus on I) examining and reviewing the implementation of the PoA, identifying the main priorities for action in the following years, and consequently adopting a Programme of Work for subsequent meetings. II) considering whether additional norms, rules, principles, or binding obligations should be developed.
- c) **Inter-sessional meetings/ informal working Groups:** It may decide by consensus to hold intersessional meetings or to establish informal working groups to focus on specific issues including the International law.

5- In this context, we stress the importance to differentiate between time-limited mandate processes that might convene two sessions a year plus intersessional meetings and a permanent mechanism (which we are discussing here) that should take into account the exponentially increasing disarmament agenda in the United Nations, avoiding any overlaps with disarmament meetings, as well as the difficulties that developing states have to effectively participate in those processes with such condensed meetings schedule, bearing in mind the capacity limitations of developing states delegations.

Before we conclude, we hope that the aforementioned elements would be reflected in the updated version of the Chair's elements paper and we look forward to further discussing all elements related to future regular institutional dialogue within the OEWG through dedicated sessions on the title/ mandate and scope/ structure and modalities of the future mechanism, bearing in mind that we are getting closer to the final annual cycle of this OEWG, hence specific agenda items require special attention at this stage, to achieve consensus and avoid any duplication of processes that would lead to further division and polarization among member states.

Finally, we reiterate our support and commitment to this process towards the conclusion of its mandate.

Thank you,

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