

## INPUT PAPER

### Proposed Content for the intersessional CBM agenda May 2024

*Input paper submitted on behalf of the open, informal, cross-regional group of the OEWG Confidence-Builders and in the name of the following OEWG participating states: Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Germany, Israel, Jordan, The Republic of Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Singapore and Uruguay.*

Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) serve as a well-proven and established cyber diplomacy-tool to promote useful uses, transparency, stability and to help **reduce the risk of misunderstanding, escalation, and conflict**. They can contribute to reducing tensions and can serve to guide states' behavior resulting in more stable international relations. In cyberspace, the potential deniability, potency and low cost of malicious cyber activities add to the need for CBMs that are **specifically tailored** to the unique context of this domain.

However, building confidence is also a **long-term and progressive commitment** requiring the sustained engagement of States. Therefore, this input paper seeks to further advance the discussions on CBMs and provide more depth regarding their operationalization in light of the upcoming intersessional meeting from 9<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May in New York. This working gathering provides an excellent opportunity to provide Member States with **further guidance** on the upcoming implementation of the global PoC directory as well as sharing best practices, lessons learned from applying other CBMs by experts from within the OEWG and beyond.

To inform our deliberations and continue advancing on the agenda item of building confidence at UN-level, please find three key elements as potential input by the informal, cross-regional group of OEWG Confidence-Builders listed below:

#### 1.) Request for Guidance / Thematic input: Onboarding of PoCs – How can we help?

The intersessional meeting will be preceded by the **first in-person gathering** of the upcoming PoC network on 9<sup>th</sup> May in New York. However, many member states will be participating in such a directory for the first time. Therefore, especially the **onboarding process** will be of great importance to assure effective functioning and usage of the first global network of POCs at UN-level.

As such, a dedicated input to the onboarding for the POC meeting but also for the phase afterwards would serve as a follow-up to the recent side-event “**Getting ready for the PoC Directory & CBM Implementation**” held during the sixth substantive session of the OEWG in March 2024 to share lessons-learned from the discussion and to contribute further to the onboarding process of POCs at UN-level. The intersessional working meeting would serve as a useful platform to share key findings of the side-event, among others, such as:

- Clearly **defining the roles, responsibilities and tasks** of the global directory is essential from the beginning to facilitate the identification of national capabilities and for POCs properly to fulfill their mandate
- Establishing **clear guidelines for coordination** between diplomatic and technical POCs helps to ensure inclusion, transparency, and efficiency of sharing information
- Recognizing the **digital gaps, differentiated needs and availability of resources** for Member States is obligatory when considering meaningful ways for all countries to participate.

The intersessional meeting would also provide room for further ideas through guided discussions among all UN member states.

## 2.) Sharing of information / lessons learnt from implementing CBMs by other MS at UN-level:

To further facilitate the effective operationalization of the Global POC Directory and the other agreed upon CBMs at UN-level, the intersessional meeting could provide a suitable occasion for already experienced UN Member States to **share guidance** with those less experienced. Similar to the OSCE's "**Adopt-a-CBM**"-Initiative, States are invited to pick a CBM from the *initial, non-exhaustive list of voluntary global Confidence-Building Measures* as endorsed by the OEWG participating States in Annex B of the 2023 Annual Progress Report to provide lessons learnt and guidance on the capacities required to perform the envisaged goals of the CBMs based on their own national and regional experience.

Moreover, to provide a different angle and perspective to **sharing of information, good practices and lessons learnt among diplomatic and technical peers** of UN member states as key components to contribute to cyber stability, it would also be fruitful to bring in **experts from other domains** working on CBMs. One relevant and closely related domain is outer space. It could be highly valuable to invite practitioners of the existing Trust and Confidence Building Measures (TCBMs) developed for use in Outer Space to share their key findings from existing practice and research during the OEWG Intersessional Meeting. Among the experts that could be invited are:

- **UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)** facilitates and coordinates "Trust and Confidence Building Measures" for Outer Space: Director *Aarti Holla-Maini* (UK)
- Expert for Outer Space at **UNIDIR**, *Almudena Azcárate Ortega* (Spain)
- Expert for Outer Space at **UNODA**, *Michael Spies* (USA)
- *Nivedita Raju* (India) and *Lora Saalman*, Researchers for Space Affairs including CBMs at **SIPRI**, Stockholm

## 3.) Thematic outlook: What is next for Confidence-Building Measures at UN-level?

Finally, we are heading towards the final year of OEWG deliberations with the potential of elaborating further thematically focused CBMs, while at the same time entering a crucial phase of implementing the first collective CBM-measure at the UN-level through the global PoC directory. This marks a crucial moment for the continuation of our joint deliberations on Confidence Building Measures at UN-level. Therefore, it might be helpful to use this occasion to present a **thematic outlook** focusing precisely on the **future of CBMs at UN-level**. Potential concrete building blocs for this outlook could be the following:

- Is there space for additional CBMs to be elaborated during the present OEWG?
- If yes, which thematic areas should be covered by additional CBMs?
- How can the global CBM practice at the UN level best be synchronized with already existing regional practice?
- How can CBMs be used in a way that stimulates multi-stakeholder engagement in confidence building?