

In the Name of God

Mr. Chair,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to join other colleagues to express our delegation's sincere gratitude to you, your team, the secretariat, and all delegates for all the contribution extended to this multilateral, inclusive, unique, democratic, and historical process on security and in the use of ICTs.

We appreciate your acknowledgment of our proposals and hope that in future sessions of the OEWG a proper approach will be led by you Mr. Chair to accommodate all proposals including ours equally. In accordance with founding Resolution 75/240, the working method of the group is consensus, and this never entails disregarding views of even a single member state. This is the meaning of consensus and must be preserved and promoted. Our distinguished Chair is rightly believing that the OEWG itself is a confidence-building measure, and we agree with that, however, if concerns and interests of all member States would not be considered, such needed confidence and trust as one of the valuable features of the OEWG will gradually be diminished.

To avoid such a situation, we reiterate the necessity of beginning negotiations based on a rolling text, paragraph by paragraph negotiations, exploring different avenues of informal diplomacy, and launching fruitful dialogue to cover the gaps and discuss the differences, all under the direction of the esteemed Chair.

Last but not least, in light of the latest version of the annual report, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Russia on behalf of the Like-Minded Group and furthermore we are obliged to disassociate ourselves from any of APR provisions that are not

consistent with our national policy, laws and regulations as well as our national values and priorities.

I thank you, Mr. Chair!