



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK

22 November 2023

Excellency,

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.

I would like to thank delegations for their constructive participation at the fifth substantive session of the OEWG held in July 2023, leading to the consensus adoption of the second Annual Progress Report (APR) which was endorsed by the First Committee on 2 November 2023. As we move into the next cycle of the work of the OEWG, I look forward to continue working with delegations to implement the recommendations as laid out in the second APR and to continue making progress in the discussions at the OEWG.

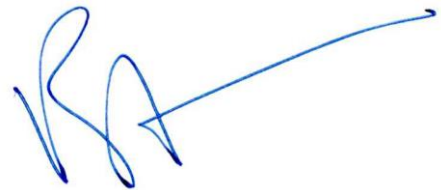
The provisional **programme of work** for the sixth substantive session to be held from 11 to 15 December 2023, structured in line with the agenda adopted at our organizational session (A/AC.292/2021/1) and the mandate contained in General Assembly resolution 75/240, is enclosed.

I have also enclosed a set of **guiding questions** to seek the views of delegations and help facilitate discussions on the various topics within the OEWG's mandate. These guiding questions are intended as a tool to help focus our discussions on the specific topics identified in the second APR, with the aim of building further convergence. I call on all delegations to avoid repeating well-known positions, and encourage them to come prepared to engage in in-depth discussions on specific issues. As always, the guiding questions are issued under my own responsibility, are non-exhaustive and do not seek to constrain or limit our discussions.

Additionally, I would like to invite all Heads of Delegations plus accompanying experts to an **in-person cocktail reception on Monday, 11 December 2023 at 6.15pm** at the Permanent Mission of Singapore. The cocktail reception invitation is enclosed.

I thank all delegations for their steadfast commitment to the work of the OEWG and continued efforts towards maintaining the spirit of consensus in the OEWG. I look forward to a constructive and substantive discussion with delegations at the sixth substantive session.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



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

All Permanent Representatives and Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

Enclosures:

- Annex A – Provisional programme of work for the sixth substantive session of the OEWG
- Annex B – Non-Exhaustive List of Guiding Questions
- Annex C – Invitation to an in-person cocktail reception at the Singapore Mission on Monday 11 December 2023 at 6.15pm



General Assembly

Distr.: General
xx November 2023

Original: English

Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

Sixth substantive session

New York, 11-15 December 2023

Provisional programme of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. The sixth substantive session of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/240](#), will be held at Headquarters from 11 to 15 December 2023.
2. The provisional programme of work is contained in the annex to the present note. The annotated agenda for the session, as adopted at the organizational meeting, on 1 June 2022, is contained in document [A/AC.292/2021/1](#).
3. Additional information can be found at <https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-information-and-communication-technologies-2021>

Annex

Provisional programme of work

Monday, 11 December

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Opening of the session

Opening statements

- Mr. Adedeji Ebo, Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs
- H.E. Ambassador Burhan Gafoor, Chair of the Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

Agenda item 3: organization of work

3–6 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240¹

Continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

Tuesday, 12 December

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240 (continued)

Further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States and the ways for their implementation and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

3–6 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240 (continued)

How international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

¹ States are strongly encouraged to use their interventions under each sub-agenda item, under “Agenda item 5: Discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240”, to focus on the specific topics and discussion points identified for follow-up in the Working Group’s second annual progress report as contained in A/78/265.

Wednesday, 13 December

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240 *(continued)*

Confidence-building measures [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

3–6 p.m.

Dedicated stakeholder session (in accordance with agreed modalities for the participation of stakeholders of 22 April 2022)

Thursday, 14 December

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240 *(continued)*

Capacity-building [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

3–6 p.m.

Agenda item 5: discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 75/240 *(continued)*

Establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, regular, institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States [from para 1, GA resolution 75/240]

Friday, 15 December

10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Agenda item 6: other matters

3–6 p.m.

Closure of the session

– Concluding remarks by the Chair

22 November 2023

NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST OF GUIDING QUESTIONS:

OEWG SIXTH SUBSTANTIVE SESSION

11 TO 15 DECEMBER 2023

Existing and Potential Threats

- Are there any new developments or trends in existing and potential ICT threats which the OEWG should discuss in-depth?
- In the Second APR, States underscored the urgency of raising awareness and deepening understanding of existing and potential threats, and of further developing and implementing cooperative measures to tackle these threats. What are some potential initiatives that can be undertaken at the global level toward this objective?

Rules, Norms and Principles

- Taking into account discussions that have taken place within the OEWG so far as well as the non-exhaustive list of proposals annexed to the Chair's Summary in the 2021 OEWG Final Report, and given some national views that additional norms could continue to be developed over time, what are some possible examples of such additional norms that could potentially complement existing norms?
- What are some measures or best practices that member states can undertake to protect CI and CII from ICT threats? How can developing countries and small states who are in the process of identifying national CI and CII be better supported in this area?
- What are specific ways in which states can further strengthen cooperation to ensure the integrity of the supply chain and prevent the use of harmful hidden functions? Are there existing programmes/policies that help promote the adoption of good practices by suppliers and vendors of ICT equipment and systems?

- The Second APR calls on “States to elaborate additional guidance, including a checklist, on the implementation of norms, taking into account previous agreements. The OEWG Chair is requested to produce an initial draft of such a checklist for consideration by States”. What would such additional guidance, including a checklist, look like?
- Are there any specific areas in which the implementation of the agreed norms is currently lacking, or where existing implementation efforts can be improved? If so, how can these be addressed?

International Law

- Based on discussions thus far, can we identify any further convergences in terms of States’ perspectives of how international law applies in the use of ICTs with regard to the topics contained in the non-exhaustive list in subparagraphs 29(a) and (b) in the Second APR, as well as proposals contained in the 2021 OEWG report and Chair’s summary, where relevant?
- Are there unique features relating to the use of ICTs that require a distinction in terms of how international law applies as compared to other domains?
- Do gaps exist in how international law applies to the use of ICTs, and if so, what can be done to bridge those gaps?
- Para 36 of the Second APR calls on “States in a position to do so to support, in a neutral and objective manner, additional efforts, including within the United Nations, to build capacity in the areas of international law”. What specific capacities are most urgently required in this area and are there existing initiatives or capacity building programmes targeted at addressing these specific capacities?

Confidence-Building Measures

- How can we accelerate the universal implementation of the CBMs listed in the Initial List of Voluntary Global CBMs? How can these CBMs be further operationalized, including, inter alia, through (a) related capacity-building, and (b) the global POC directory?

- Are there additional CBMs that can be added to the Initial List of Voluntary Global CBMs?
- Paras 14(a) to (d) of Annex A of the Second APR suggests topics of discussion for further work by States on the POC directory. What proposals, suggestions and ideas do States have in relation to these possible areas of future work?

Capacity-building

- What are some of the foundational capacities required for States to detect, defend against or respond to malicious ICT activities, and also for them to utilize effectively existing mechanisms such as CERT-CERT channels for this purpose?
- The Second APR calls on States to continue to discuss the proposal for a Global Cyber Security Cooperation Portal (GCSCP) as a “one-stop shop” tool for States, developed under the auspices of the UN, and that further discussions could take place on how to synergize this portal with other existing portals as appropriate. What would such a portal look like in practice?
- The Second APR encourages States to develop and share voluntary checklists and other tools to assist States in mainstreaming the capacity-building principles contained in Annex C of the Second APR. What would such checklists and tools look like?
- The Second APR encourages States to develop and share tools that would assist States in incorporating a gender perspective into capacity-building efforts. What would such tools look like?
- What additional role, can the United Nations perform in the provision, coordination, or facilitation of capacity-building efforts, in a manner that complements existing initiatives?

Regular Institutional Dialogue

- Recalling the list of common elements for a future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue agreed in the Second APR, what additional consensus elements can be added to this list?

- Taking into account latest developments on the Programme of Action as well as ongoing discussions on other proposals made related to regular institutional dialogue, how can we align different synergies and best develop a future mechanism for ICT security?

.



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
UNITED NATIONS | NEW YORK

INVITATION

On the occasion of the fifth substantive session of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

H.E. Ambassador Burhan Gafoor,
*Chair of the OEWG and
Permanent Representative of Singapore to the United Nations,*

has the honour to invite the

*Head of Delegation
plus one accompanying expert*

*to a Reception on
Monday, 11 December 2023, at 6.15 pm*

*at the
Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations
318 East 48th Street
New York, NY 10017
(between 1st and 2nd Avenues)*

To confirm your participation, please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/OEWG11Dec23>