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.

Further to my previous letter dated 15 December 2022, I am pleased to enclose, for delegations’ consideration, a Chair’s non-paper setting out key elements that can form the basis for the development and operationalization of a global, intergovernmental Points of Contact directory (POC directory).

As delegations are aware, the Secretariat had circulated an advanced, unedited background information paper on the POC directory based on written submissions of Member States’ views on 10 January 2023. In preparing the Chair’s non-paper, I have been guided by the background information paper prepared by the Secretariat, as well as taken into account the views expressed by delegations at the informal inter-sessional meetings in December 2022 and the experiences shared by regional organizations.

I wish to make it clear that this non-paper is intended to serve as a starting point for discussions amongst delegations, with the objective of building convergence around a set of elements on the POC directory that can adopted by consensus at the conclusion of the fifth substantive session of the OEWG in July 2023.

In this regard, I would like to invite delegations to a virtual informal “townhall meeting” to hear initial views, reactions and feedback to the Chair’s non-paper. As indicated in the 2023 OEWG Meeting Schedule enclosed in the Annex of
my letter dated 15 December 2022, the virtual informal townhall meeting will take place on **Wednesday, 15 February 2023, at 9.00am (New York time)**. The Secretariat will disseminate the link for the meeting in due course.

I thank all delegations once again for their active and constructive participation in the OEWG, and I look forward to working closely with all delegations to make meaningful progress and deliver concrete outcomes at the upcoming fourth and fifth substantive sessions of the OEWG.

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

Enclosure:

- Annex A – Non-Paper Prepared by the Chair of the OEWG: Elements for the Development and Operationalization of a Global, Intergovernmental Points of Contact Directory
1. In accordance with the Annual Progress Report (APR) of the OEWG contained in A/77/275, in which “States agree to establish, building on work already done at the regional level, a global, intergovernmental, points of contact directory”, this non-paper sets out elements that can guide the development and operationalization of such a directory.

**Purpose**

2. A global, intergovernmental, points of contact directory (POC directory), would serve as a Confidence-Building Measure (CBM) in itself and also provide a framework for the implementation of other CBMs that could help to promote an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technologies (ICT) environment. The main purpose of the POC directory is to:

   (a) Enhance interaction and cooperation between States and in doing so promote international peace and security, and increase transparency and predictability;

   (b) Increase information sharing and enable States to more effectively manage and resolve ICT incidents; and

   (c) Reduce tensions and prevent misunderstandings and misperceptions that may stem from ICT incidents.
Modalities

3. **Access and Participation.** Participation in the POC directory, including the submission of information, would be on a voluntary basis. States wishing to participate in the POC directory would be granted access to the directory.

4. **Directory Specifications.** The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) will serve as the manager of the directory, and will be responsible for developing and operationalizing the POC directory in accordance with the following specifications:

   a) Information Schema:

      i. States may nominate either or both diplomatic and technical POCs to the directory.

      ii. States may nominate either an entity/institution or a specific designated individual as their POC.

      iii. States may provide information on the entity/institution, contact information (telephone number and email), name and designation of the respective POC (where applicable), and operational language(s) of the POC.

      iv. Each directory entry may be submitted in any UN language; in addition, an unofficial English translation may be provided.

   b) Information Protection: The directory will be hosted online on a secure password-protected website.

   c) Information Access: States may request login credentials for the website from UNODA through their Permanent Missions in New York.
d) Information Management: States may provide updates to information contained in the directory on a rolling basis in the event of changes to their submitted information.

5. **Directory Maintenance.** The directory manager will conduct “ping” tests every six-months to verify that the information in the directory is up-to-date.

6. **Interaction between POCs.** The decision on how to respond to communications received via the POC directory and the content to be communicated in response will be determined by each State. Any information exchanged will be voluntary and in line with the respective domestic circumstances and requirements of the POCs involved. Any subsequent cooperation and/or information sharing will proceed according to mutual agreement.

7. **Sharing of Information.** Information exchanged between POCs should remain confidential. POCs involved in the exchange of information will only share that information with third parties by mutual consent. POCs are encouraged to keep a record of all information exchanged.

8. **Interaction with other directories.** To build on existing efforts at the regional and sub-regional levels and avoid duplication of effort, States are encouraged to harness synergies vis-a-vis existing regional directories as well as existing CERT directories, where appropriate:

   a) Where States have already nominated diplomatic and technical POCs to other directories, States are encouraged to nominate the same diplomatic and technical POCs to the global directory; and

   b) Managers of existing directories are encouraged to work with UNODA to explore the feasibility of enabling automatic addition of information in their directories to the global directory through appropriate and protected communication channels, with the agreement of all contributors to the respective existing directory.
**Capacity-Building**

9. Guided by the APR’s recommendation for States to “engage in discussions on initiatives for related capacity-building” with regard to the establishment of the POC directory:

   a) States agree to develop a dedicated action plan to support interested States in building the requisite institutional strength to effectively participate in the POC directory, including *inter alia* through tailored programs for identified POCs;

   b) States will engage in further focused discussions, at the sixth and seventh sessions of the OEWG, on the development of the action plan, on a consensus basis. In support of these discussions, the UN Secretariat is requested to prepare for States’ consideration, no later than January 2024, a paper identifying and proposing:

      i. initial capacities required for the effective functioning of POCs; and

      ii. suitable mechanisms and actions for building such capacity as part of the action plan.

   c) The UN Secretariat, in partnership with interested States, to develop a “POC 101” online tutorial, no later than the start of the sixth session; and

   d) States in a position to do so are invited to support related capacity-building with regard to the POC directory, including in collaboration, where appropriate, with regional and sub-regional organizations and other interested stakeholders, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia.
Further Work

10. Working on the understanding that the operationalization of the POC directory will proceed in an incremental and step-by-step manner, the initial operationalization of the POC directory should be achieved as quickly as possible, with further efforts undertaken thereafter to gradually improve and further develop the POC directory. In this regard, States will simultaneously continue discussions on:

a) Initiatives to expand voluntary participation by States in the POC directory;

b) Information sharing processes and protocols, including measures for the proper handling of information exchanged and the possible development of templates; and

c) Further ideas to enhance the effective functioning of the POC directory and improve the directory’s ability to facilitate communications between States.

11. Following the initial operationalization of the directory, States may review the operation of the POC directory and consider possibilities for further improvement.