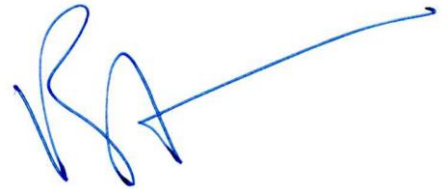26 January 2024

Excellency,

I have the honour of writing to 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.

You will recall that in the OEWG's second Annual Progress Report contained in A/78/265, States decided that the OEWG Chair would convene a dedicated **Global Roundtable on ICT security capacity-building**. As previously communicated, the Global Roundtable will take place on **10 May 2024 at United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ)** in the form of a **high-level meeting** designed to provide an action-oriented platform for capacity-building practitioners, State representatives, and interested stakeholders, to exchange ideas, share best practices, and build partnerships, with the aim of building synergies and advancing the international community's work on capacity-building in concrete ways.

Given the importance of capacity-building as a cross-cutting effort underpinning the framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs, and noting that this is the first time the United Nations is convening a dedicated global event on ICT security capacity-building, I believe that the active participation of States in the Global Roundtable at the ministerial level will significantly enrich our discussions while sending an unequivocal signal of the importance placed by the international community on the urgent need to make concrete progress in this area. In this regard, **I am pleased to enclose an invitation addressed to your country's minister-in-charge of ICT security and/or digital technologies seeking their participation in this event**. I would be grateful for your assistance to transmit the enclosed invitation to its highest destination.

I thank all delegations for the strong interest they have shown in the Global Roundtable so far and look forward to working together with delegations to organize a meaningful and substantive Global Roundtable, in accordance with the decision taken by States in the OEWG's second Annual Progress Report and in accordance with our mandate as established in General Assembly resolution 75/240.

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 – Letter of invitation to H.E. The Minister-in-charge of ICT Security and/or Digital Technologies

26 January 2024

Ministers-in-charge of ICT Security and/or Digital Technologies
of Member States and Observer States of the United Nations,

**INVITATION TO ATTEND GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE
ON ICT SECURITY CAPACITY-BUILDING ON 10 MAY 2024
AT UNITED NATIONS HQ IN NEW YORK**

I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations 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.

The OEWG's work builds on a long history of discussions at the United Nations on the issue of ICT security in the context of international peace and security, which over time has resulted in a **cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs**. The OEWG has made good progress since its inception in 2021, including through the consensus adoption of two Annual Progress Reports containing concrete and action-oriented measures to implement and further develop the cumulative and evolving framework.

This framework provides guidance on the responsible behaviour of States in their use of ICTs in the context of international peace and security. The framework provides us with a strong foundation for our collective efforts to enhance international peace and security. This requires all States to fully participate in its continued development and implementation. In this regard, **capacity-building** is a crucial and indispensable component of our work on ICT security at the international level. It is for this reason that the OEWG has recognized that capacity-building "is a topic that cuts across all the pillars of the OEWG's work", and accordingly States

have repeatedly emphasized the **urgent need to accelerate ICT security capacity-building efforts across the globe.**

The OEWG's Second Annual Progress Report (A/78/265) decided that the OEWG Chair would convene a dedicated **Global Roundtable on ICT security capacity-building** as a platform to bring together capacity-building practitioners, State representatives, and interested stakeholders, to make progress on this vital issue. In this regard, <u>**I have the honour to invite you to attend this high-level meeting, which will take place on 10 May 2024 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Further details about the Global Roundtable can be found in the enclosed concept note.**</u>

The Global Roundtable is a first-of-its-kind opportunity for countries to come together from around the world at the ministerial level to exchange views and share priorities on the topic of ICT capacities and how we as a global community can work together to enhance cooperation in this area to strengthen ICT security. This is a critical issue that involves all States, regardless of level of capacity. The Global Roundtable will serve as an action-oriented platform for capacity-building practitioners, State representatives and interested stakeholders to advance the international community's work on capacity-building in concrete ways. In this regard, the intention is for participating ministers to foster synergies, expand partnerships, identify gaps, and advance efforts to leverage the full potential of new and existing efforts at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral levels.

Given the importance of capacity-building as a cross-cutting effort underpinning the framework for responsible State behaviour, and noting that this is the first time the United Nations is convening a dedicated global event on ICT security capacity-building, I believe that your active participation in the Global Roundtable as a ministerial representative of your country will significantly enrich our discussions while sending an unequivocal signal of the importance placed by your country to strengthening ICT security globally.

I thank you for your continued support for the work of the OEWG, and I look forward to welcoming you at the Global Roundtable.

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

H.E. The Minister-in-charge of ICT Security and/or Digital Technologies

Enclosure:

- Annex A – Concept Note for Global Roundtable on ICT security capacity-building

GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE ON ICT SECURITY CAPACITY-BUILDING

Date: 10 May 2024, 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, New York

Background

In view of the rapidly evolving global ICT security environment, there is an urgent need to enhance the capacity of all States to secure their national ICT environments by addressing challenges in this domain and to implement and further develop the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs.

In this regard, States have emphasized that capacity-building is a cross-cutting pillar and multi-disciplinary effort that underpins our collective international efforts to address all areas of ICT security in the context of international security, including addressing existing and emerging threats; implementing and developing rules, norms and principles of responsible State behaviour; international law; and pursuing confidence-building measures.

Introduction

In the second Annual Progress Report of the Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of ICTs 2021-2025 (OEWG), States agreed that the OEWG Chair would convene a dedicated **Global Roundtable on ICT security capacity-building** as a platform to bring together capacity-building practitioners, State representatives, and interested stakeholders, to advance international efforts on capacity-building.

Against this backdrop, the Global Roundtable will be convened as a high-level meeting to enable States, International Organizations and stakeholders to engage in an interactive discussion and exchange of views; to showcase national, regional, subregional, and cross-regional initiatives; to encourage the sharing of information and best practices; to promote learning from national strategies; and to catalyze the formation of partnerships; with a view towards identifying gaps, building synergies and leveraging the full potential of new and existing efforts. The Global Roundtable will also be a timely opportunity to reflect on the capacity-building "mapping exercise" currently being carried out by the UN Secretariat at the request of the OEWG, and to identify potential gaps in the existing global capacity-building landscape.

Format and Structure

The Global Roundtable will be a full-day event with two signature panels complemented by breakout groups to delve deeper into specific capacity-building thematic areas of focus, taking place in-person at UNHQ. **Participation at the Ministerial-level is requested and recommended.**

<div align="center">**DRAFT PROGRAMME**</div>

Thursday, 9 May

6:30pm   **Welcome Reception**

Heads of delegations are cordially invited to a welcome reception hosted by the Chair of the OEWG at the Singapore Mission

Friday, 10 May

9:00-10:00am   **OPENING PLENARY**

The Secretary-General (TBC)
Keynotes by Strategic Partners
Opportunity for brief opening remarks by Ministers

10:00am-11:30am   **SIGNATURE PANEL I**

Signature panels will feature high-level discussions moderated at ministerial-level on key areas of focus with a view towards strengthening the global capacity-building agenda

11:30am-1:00pm   **SIGNATURE PANEL II**

Signature panels will feature high-level discussions moderated at ministerial-level on key areas of focus with a view towards strengthening the global capacity-building agenda

1.00pm-3.00pm   **LUNCHTIME CAPACITY-BUILDING MATCHMAKING SESSION**

The lunchtime matchmaking session will feature structured activities designed to foster informal connections and collaborative partnerships between capacity-building providers and States seeking capacity-building, and between States, IOs and stakeholders.

3:00pm-5:00pm   **BREAKOUT GROUPS BY THEMATIC FOCUS AREA OF CAPACITY-BUILDING**

Breakout groups will feature focused discussions on specific areas of capacity-building

5:00pm-6:00pm   **CLOSING PLENARY**