



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

28 February 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 active and constructive participation at the informal town hall meeting held on 15 February 2023 to discuss the 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) issued with my letter dated 26 January 2023.

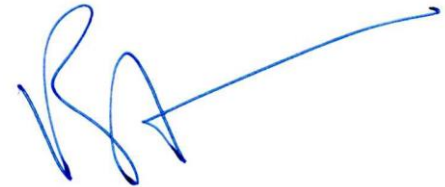
Having thoroughly reviewed the comments made by delegations at the informal town hall meeting as well as the written input subsequently submitted, I am pleased to enclose, for delegations' consideration, a **revised version (Rev. 1) of the Chair's non-paper**.

As conveyed in my letter dated 22 February 2023, I would like to remind delegations that I will be convening an **informal inter-sessional meeting** to further discuss this topic, which will take place **in hybrid format at 10am on 2 March 2023** (New York local time) in Conference Room 3 at UNHQ and on the Webex online platform. [Note: Information regarding hybrid connection details for the informal inter-sessional meeting has been separately communicated by the Secretariat.]

It is my intention to use this latest revised version of the Chair's non-paper as the basis for our discussions at the informal inter-sessional meeting and during the fourth substantive session, with the aim of achieving convergence around a set of elements on the POC directory that can be adopted by consensus at the conclusion of the fifth substantive session of the OEWG in July 2023.

I thank all delegations once again for their commitment to the OEWG process and look forward to working closely with delegations to make progress on this issue, as well as on all other issues under our mandate as established in General Assembly resolution 75/240, at the upcoming informal inter-sessional meeting and fourth substantive session 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 – Revised Non-Paper Prepared by Chair of the OEWG: Elements for the Development and Operationalization of a Global, Inter-Governmental Points of Contact Directory (Rev. 1)

**Revised 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 and Principles**

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 and promote adherence by States to the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behavior in the use of ICTs.

2 bis The POC directory is envisioned to be practical in nature, based on the principles of political neutrality and respect for the sovereignty of Member States, in accordance with the UN Charter.

2 ter The POC directory will complement and not duplicate the functions undertaken by Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) networks.

2 quater The main purposes of the POC directory are to:

- (a) Enhance interaction and cooperation between States and in doing so promote international peace and security, and increase transparency and predictability;
- (b) Facilitate communication between States in the event of an urgent or significant ICT incident; and
- (c) Reduce tensions and prevent misunderstandings and misperceptions that may stem from ICT incidents, thus contributing to the prevention of conflict between States.

### **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, with the responsibility of developing and operationalizing the technical aspects of the POC directory in accordance with the following specifications:

a) Information Schema:

- i. States may nominate 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. For general information purposes, a public page providing an overview of the POC directory's mandate will be made available on the UNODA website.
- 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.

- a) POCs may wish to use standardized templates when interacting with other POCs. Such standardized templates can indicate the types of information required when sending a communication, including technical data and the nature of the request, but be flexible enough to allow for communication, even if some information is unavailable;<sup>1</sup> and

- b) States will continue work to develop such standardized templates in accordance with the step-by-step approach for improving the POC directory.

7. **Sharing of Information.** Information exchanged between POCs should remain confidential. POCs involved in the exchange of information will only share

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<sup>1</sup> 2021 GGE report, A/76/135, para 77(b)

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 technical synergies and regular information updating between such directories and the global directory, through appropriate and protected communication channels, where agreed by 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, States agree to a dedicated action plan comprising the following elements to support developing countries in building the required technical capacities to effectively participate in the POC directory:

- a) States and/or group of States in a position to do so will support 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. These States are invited to communicate, as soon as possible, their initiatives to the Secretariat, which will compile and publicize them on the OEWG website on an ongoing basis;

- b) States and/or groups of States in a position to do so will convene technical experts meetings of designated POCs, in an in-person or hybrid format, at the sub-regional, regional, cross-regional and global levels to discuss and share experiences relating to participation in POC directories, thereby providing an avenue for new POCs and POCs from small and developing countries to learn from the experiences of more experienced POCs. These States are invited to communicate, as soon as possible, their initiatives to the Secretariat, which will compile and publicize them on the OEWG website on an ongoing basis;
- c) The UN Secretariat will develop, in partnership with interested States, a “POC 101” online tutorial, no later than November 2023, on the practical aspects of getting started and participating in a POC directory, in order to encourage States to nominate national POCs and to facilitate States’ use of the POC directory;
- d) The OEWG Chair will convene a table-top exercise (TTX), in partnership with UNIDIR and interested States, no later than December 2023, utilizing a basic scenario to allow representatives from States to simulate the practical aspects of participating in a POC directory;
- e) The UN Secretariat will prepare a background paper no later than January 2024 (a) identifying capacities required for the effective participation of POCs in the POC directory; and (b) proposing suitable mechanisms and actions for building such capacities, including, *inter alia*, tailored programs for identified POCs;
- f) The UN Secretariat, in partnership with UNITAR and UNIDIR, and with the support of interested States, will develop a series of tailored “e-learning” modules addressing the capacities required for the effective participation of POCs in the POC directory, as identified by the UN Secretariat’s background paper; and
- g) States will engage in further focused discussions, at the forthcoming sessions of the OEWG, on potential follow-up actions drawing upon the information presented in the Secretariat’s background paper. In these discussions, States will also take stock of the initiatives compiled on the OEWG website in

accordance with paras 9(a) and 9(b), and consider what additional initiatives, if any, may be required to build the capacities identified in the Secretariat's background paper.

### **Further Work**

10. The initial operationalization of the POC directory should be achieved as quickly as possible. Further improvement of the POC directory will proceed in an incremental and step-by-step manner, with such efforts undertaken in line with the purposes and principles set out above. In this regard, States will simultaneously continue discussions on:

- a) Initiatives to expand voluntary participation by States in the POC directory;
- b) Communication 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 in its operation.

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**Revised Non-Paper Prepared by the Chair of the OEWG:  
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**2 bis The POC directory is envisioned to be practical in nature, based on the principles of political neutrality and respect for the sovereignty of Member States, in accordance with the UN Charter.**

**2 ter The POC directory will complement and not duplicate the functions undertaken by Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs) networks.**

**2 quater** The main purposes of the POC directory is **are** 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~~ **Facilitate communication between States in the event of an urgent or significant** ICT incidents; and
- (c) Reduce tensions and prevent misunderstandings and misperceptions that may stem from ICT incidents, **thus contributing to the prevention of conflict between States.**

### **Modalities**

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- 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. **For general information purposes, a public page providing an overview of the POC directory's mandate will be made available on the UNODA website.**
- 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.

a) **POCs may wish to use standardized templates when interacting with other POCs. Such standardized templates can indicate the types of information required when sending a communication, including technical data and the nature of the request, but be flexible enough to allow for communication, even if some information is unavailable;<sup>2</sup> and**

b) **States will continue work to develop such standardized templates in accordance with the step-by-step approach for improving the POC directory.**

7. **Sharing of Information.** Information exchanged between POCs should remain confidential. POCs involved in the exchange of information will only share

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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~~ **technical synergies and regular information updating between such directories and** the global directory, through appropriate and protected communication channels, ~~with the agreement of~~ **where agreed by** 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, **States agree to a dedicated action plan comprising the following elements to support developing countries in building the required technical capacities to effectively participate in the POC directory:**

- a) **States and/or group of States in a position to do so will support 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. These States are invited to communicate, as soon as possible, their initiatives to the Secretariat, which will compile and publicize them on the OEWG website on an ongoing basis;**

- b) States and/or groups of States in a position to do so will convene technical experts meetings of designated POCs, in an in-person or hybrid format, at the sub-regional, regional, cross-regional and global levels to discuss and share experiences relating to participation in POC directories, thereby providing an avenue for new POCs and POCs from small and developing countries to learn from the experiences of more experienced POCs. These States are invited to communicate, as soon as possible, their initiatives to the Secretariat, which will compile and publicize them on the OEWG website on an ongoing basis;
- c) The UN Secretariat will develop, in partnership with interested States, a “POC 101” online tutorial, no later than November 2023, on the practical aspects of getting started and participating in a POC directory, in order to encourage States to nominate national POCs and to facilitate States’ use of the POC directory;
- d) The OEWG Chair will convene a table-top exercise (TTX), in partnership with UNIDIR and interested States, no later than December 2023, utilizing a basic scenario to allow representatives from States to simulate the practical aspects of participating in a POC directory;
- e) The UN Secretariat will prepare a background paper no later than January 2024 (a) identifying capacities required for the effective participation of POCs in the POC directory; and (b) proposing suitable mechanisms and actions for building such capacities, including, *inter alia*, tailored programs for identified POCs;
- f) The UN Secretariat, in partnership with UNITAR and UNIDIR, and with the support of interested States, will develop a series of tailored “e-learning” modules addressing the capacities required for the effective participation of POCs in the POC directory, as identified by the UN Secretariat’s background paper; and
- g) States will engage in further focused discussions, at the forthcoming sessions of the OEWG, on potential follow-up actions drawing upon the information presented in the Secretariat’s background paper. In these

**discussions, States will also take stock of the initiatives compiled on the OEWG website in accordance with paras 9(a) and 9(b), and consider what additional initiatives, if any, may be required to build the capacities identified in the Secretariat's background paper.**

- ~~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, t~~ **The initial operationalization of the POC directory should be achieved as quickly as possible, Further improvement of the POC directory will proceed in an incremental and**

**step-by-step manner**, with further **such** efforts undertaken **in line with the purposes and principles set out above**. ~~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~~ **Communication** 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 **in its operation**.

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