

MEXICO'S VIEWS ON THE POINTS OF CONTACT (PoC) DIRECTORY

Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (OEWG 2021-2025)

New York, 23 December 2022
COURTESY TRANSLATION

1. The Government of Mexico values positively that the OEWG is making progress in the implementation of confidence-building measures in cyberspace. Since this is a recommendation emanating from the previous reports of the GGE and the OEWG, it is particularly important to generate a common understanding from the United Nations to establish a national Points of Contact (PoC) directory.
2. Mexico considers that this effort should not start from zero, but rather draw from existing experiences at the regional level or in other forums to identify best practices and functional options that lead to the establishment of the network of contact points based on such experiences. Mexico values in advance the efforts of the Chair of the Working Group, the UNODA Secretariat and UNIDIR, aimed at generating inputs that feed this process, based on existing practices. For this reason, Mexico also accompanies the work of an interregional group of countries interested in advancing the implementation of CBMs as part of the current mandate of the OEWG.
3. Mexico recommends that the establishment of Points of Contact within the United Nations does not generate burdens, nor is it intended to create obligations that go beyond the mandates established for the bodies and for the deliberation of thematic UN processes. Therefore, it should be considered as a concrete exercise to operationalize one of the confidence-building measures (CBMs) that has been previously recommended by these multilateral processes.
4. Based on Mexico's experience in various contact networks, and especially from the OAS Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence-building Measures in Cyberspace, Mexico recommends that the establishment of a network of national point of contact at the United Nations system be taken as a first step under the directory format, that is, a list of officials designated by each State, who will be in



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charge of receiving requests for support or information associated with risks in cyberspace, and then channel said requests with the competent national authorities.

5. In view of the above, it is recommended to clearly state that the designated points of contact will not be the obligated responders, but rather have the primary responsibility of channeling as a vehicle for transmitting the requests received to the appropriate national authorities. While the response to such requests may be given through the most appropriate channels decided by each State.
6. Based on regional practice, it is recommended that the point of contact network be composed primarily of officials from foreign ministries, allowing flexibility for States that so choose to designate more than one person as a point of contact.
7. The establishment of this network of diplomatic points of contact should not replace or condition the functioning of existing networks of points of contact and response networks, primarily technical, such as the CSIRT Americas network or the 24/7 Network. It is not considered advisable that these technically functional networks should be elevated in principle to the scope of the OEWG's work, as they could lead to duplication of efforts and delays in alert or preventive notifications that circulate on a daily basis for the existing networks.