

In the Name of God

Iran's submission

**to the seventh substantive session of the Open-Ended
Working Group on the security of and in the use of
information and communications technologies 2021-2025
(OEWG)**

4 - 8 March 2024, United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ), New York

On

Rules, Norms, and Principles

Mr. Chair,

Thank you for giving me the floor.

In response to your first guiding question regarding the additional norms that could potentially complement existing norms, I wish to emphasize that several states, including my own, have previously put forward specific norms that were incorporated into the first OEWG Chair's Summary. Since those proposals remain valid and retain their relevance, in order to streamline our discussion, I would prefer not to reiterate them here. I would like to recall that yesterday we heard from the distinguished Chair that the idea of new norms was also proposed by stakeholders.

Instead, in order to fulfill the outstanding mandate of the OEWG in elaborating additional norms designated by Resolution 75/240 as a priority, we would like to propose that the Chair of the OEWG takes the

initiative to craft an initial draft encompassing new rules, norms, and principles, drawing from the annex to the Chair's summary.

This draft could serve as a basis for discussions during the forthcoming substantive sessions, as well as during the dedicated inter-sessional meeting on rules, norms, and principles of responsible State behavior in the use of ICTs, which is outlined in paragraph 27 of the second APR.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to express our appreciation for the Papers recently circulated for discussion during this session. However, Emphasizing the importance of ensuring a thorough, practical, and meaningful review and consultations by our related internal agencies, we kindly request that the guiding questions and the discussion documents of the OEWG be circulated early enough. This will provide our internal agencies ample opportunity to study the materials comprehensively, contributing to a more informed and constructive discussion during the OEWG sessions.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some general and initial comments on the discussion paper on a checklist of practical actions for the implementation of voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in the use of ICT.

First, in our view, taking measures and initiatives on the implementation of rules of behaviour appears premature. Before engaging in discussions

concerning the operationalization of envisaged norms, the OEWG needs to reach a consensus on a comprehensive list of norms by fulfilling its mandate outlined in Paragraph 1 of resolution 75/240 to introduce changes to the rules, norms, and principles of responsible behaviour of States or elaborating additional ones.

Second, Throughout the OEWG discussions, numerous countries have consistently underscored that further development of new norms and the implementation of existing norms were not mutually exclusive but could take place in parallel. Currently, this essential balance seems to be overlooked, given that a parallel document addressing the formulation of new norms has yet to be drafted.

Thank you.