Statement by Estonia at 4ᵗʰ substantial meeting of

the 2021-2025 UN Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

Discussion under the Thematic Session on Point of Contact Directory,

10 March 2023

Thank you, Mr Chair. Estonia would like to echo support for the POC network initiative. The non-paper on POC network is a good starting point and we appreciate continuing discussions on the next steps forward. Estonia has submitted a national position and expressed views in informal meetings. Let me briefly point out some key elements.

Mr Chair, we support the **step-by-step approach** to the concept of a POC network. In general, we can agree with the proposed **purpose and principles** section of the proposed non-paper. However we would propose to delete "section 2 bis" as the "principle of political neutrality" is not a separately standing principle of the UN Charter.

We agree with the sentiment shared by the Chair that the true value of the network will derive from engaging countries who are not in any existing directories. This is why we welcome that the global POC directory takes into account that Member States may have various pre-existing domestic organizational structures which may shape the countries' approach to assigning **POCs.** We also support learning from the experiences of **regional networks**, like those functioning within the OSCE, the OAS or the ASEAN. These experiences are useful for designing the POC network.

Finally, from our perspective, the main goal of the POC network should be **timely and practical information exchange.** This is why we do not support the creation of additional communication protocols and templates. As we have mentioned previously in our national positions, Estonia suggests to refrain from imposing strict policies for the communication between the global POCs.

Thank you, Mr Chair.