

**Statement by Estonia at 4th substantive 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 Regular Institutional Dialogue,  
10 March 2023**

Thank you chair for giving me the floor.

We would like to align with the EU statement and add a few remarks from our national perspective.

Estonia supports further discussions on PoA as a mechanism for advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs. Estonia advocates for establishing a single permanent structure for furthering the OEWG discussions, after the end of the current OEWG ending in 2025. From the perspective of a small State, it is necessary to have clarity and institutional stability regarding the further processes related to the discussions held here. The proposed PoA would remove the need for UNGA to debate the creation of new cyber processes every two, three or four years.

Our session here this week has been very illustrative. The discussions have been substantial and there is much more to be elaborate upon. An increasing number of countries are interested in contributing to the discussions and there have been many useful ideas proposed by different countries during our discussions. We believe that the PoA framework could offer a holistic framework for these ideas to be brought forward and analysed in greater detail.

The elements of the PoA mechanism could be based on focused discussion – for example, held in working groups open to all interested participants – on threats, capacity building, confidence building, norms as well as international law. Another option could be focusing these working groups on more specific topics such as critical infrastructure protection. At the same time the PoA framework should remain flexible, as to take into account the evolving threat landscape.

Importantly, the future regular institutional dialogue should place a strong focus on the implementation of the established framework which can be supported by capacity building. This is why the PoA should build on previous outcomes, the *acquis* which has already been agreed upon. We agree with the guiding principles which have been articulated here today, underlining that the future framework should be consensus-based, inclusive, and action-oriented.

The comprehensive mechanisms could also offer a platform for more active engagement with other stakeholders and allow to further benefit from their expertise and knowledge.

We also take note of the proposals by other countries which we will study in great detail.

Thank you.