



United Nations General Assembly

Open-Ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications Technologies 2021-2025

5th Substantive Session - Dedicated stakeholder segment

**Statement by the Paris Peace Forum
Delivered by Jerome Barbier, Head of Outer Space, Digital and Economic Issues**

26 July 2023

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, distinguished Delegates and dear participants,

[My name is Jerome Barbier and I am speaking on behalf of the Paris Peace Forum, which welcomes the secretariat of the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace. The Paris Call is one of the world's main multistakeholder platform to advance norms and principles to common norms and principles to defend accountability and human security in cyberspace, thanks to its community of over 1200 supporters from across the ecosystem.]

Mr. Chairman, we would first like to reiterate our appreciation for your sustained efforts to ensure the participation of all interested stakeholders in the work of this Open-Ended Working Group, in and out of the substantial sessions. As you have offered stakeholders to share insights on how they could best contribute to the action-oriented proposals captured in the zero draft of the second annual progress report, allow me to first commend States for the progresses made this year and for the determination they have shown since Monday to reach a second APR. The Paris Peace Forum strongly encourage States to reach a consensus which reflects the constructive work achieved by this OEWG.

We first welcome the reference made, under the Existing and Potential Threats section, to the proliferation of commercially available ICT capabilities that can be used for malicious purposes as well as the uncontrolled growth of “access as a service” markets as mentioned in paragraph 11 of the first draft. Addressing this multi-layered issue will require to better coordinate efforts, especially as to articulate

existing frameworks with necessary new norms where relevant, as well as the responsibility of all actors, whether public or private. In compliance with Principle 5 of the Call, the Paris Call community is currently pursuing this endeavor in a multistakeholder format, starting by clarifying possible policy levers to tackle this issue – a concrete example of how the stakeholder community can contribute to the action-oriented proposal captured in the draft APR.

We also welcome mentions of increasing malicious activities targeting CI and CII under the threat section (especially in paragraphs 10 bis and 10 ter of the first draft) as well as to potential cascading domestic, regional and global effects resulting from their disruption. On this matter, we however believe that better clarity and, where possible, convergence on the notion of “critical infrastructure” would especially contribute to the goal of this OEWG when it comes to services whose disruption would have particularly severe humanitarian effects, in wartime as well as in peacetime. Stakeholders can contribute to better frame this concept, especially when it comes to assessing impacts on populations or identifying critical areas where further collaboration is needed at the international level.

On capacity building, we align ourselves with the common letter shared by the International Chamber of Commerce, that calls for the APR to reflect conversations from past meetings about the value of establishing common goals to define the scope, ambition and required capacity building support needed to implement the existing framework of responsible state behavior. Here again, stakeholders should be regarded as resources by delegations to design the most relevant framework, taking into account local specificities.

Overall, in this endeavor to implement the various action-oriented proposals in the latest revision of the draft annual progress report, we encourage States to benefit from opportunities created by the stakeholder community, especially by mobilizing existing informal diplomatic formats such as the World Economic Forum, the Raisina Dialogue, or the Paris Peace Forum. These efforts enable States to benefit from informal engagement with stakeholders, even on sensitive policy issues related to national and international security. In this regard, they are critical resources to increase States cyber policy capacities, and are complementary to formal negotiations and processes undertaken in the framework of the United Nations.

I thank you Mister Chair.