

Preliminary briefing based on  
State inputs in advance of  
preparation of requested  
Secretariat background paper  
on global points of contact  
directory

*OEWG on security of and in the use of ICTs,  
informal, intersessional meetings*

5 December 2022



# 2022 OEWG Progress Report

## [A/77/275](#), Section E: Confidence-Building Measures, Recommended Next Steps, para. 2:

*States agree to establish, building on work already done at the regional level, a **global, intergovernmental, points of contact directory**.*

*At the fourth and fifth sessions of the OEWG, States to engage in **further focused discussions** on the development of such a directory, on a consensus basis, as well as engage in discussions on initiatives for related capacity-building, taking into account available best practices such as regional and subregional experiences where appropriate.*



# Request for background information paper

By paragraph 3 of “Recommended next steps” under Section E “Confidence-Building Measures” of the Annex contained in [A/77/275](#):

The UN Secretariat is requested to seek views from States on the global points of contact directory, which could include views on experiences at the regional and subregional levels, and produce a background information paper on these views by the **end of January 2023** for consideration at the fourth session of the OEWG.



# Solicitation of State inputs

*Pursuant to that request, the Office for Disarmament Affairs invited submissions of views of States on the global points of contact directory with a view to preparation of the requested background information paper in advance of the fourth substantive session (6-10 March 2023)*

*Note Verbale circulated with deadline of 25 November*

*\*\*At the time of presentation, 22 States have submitted their views*



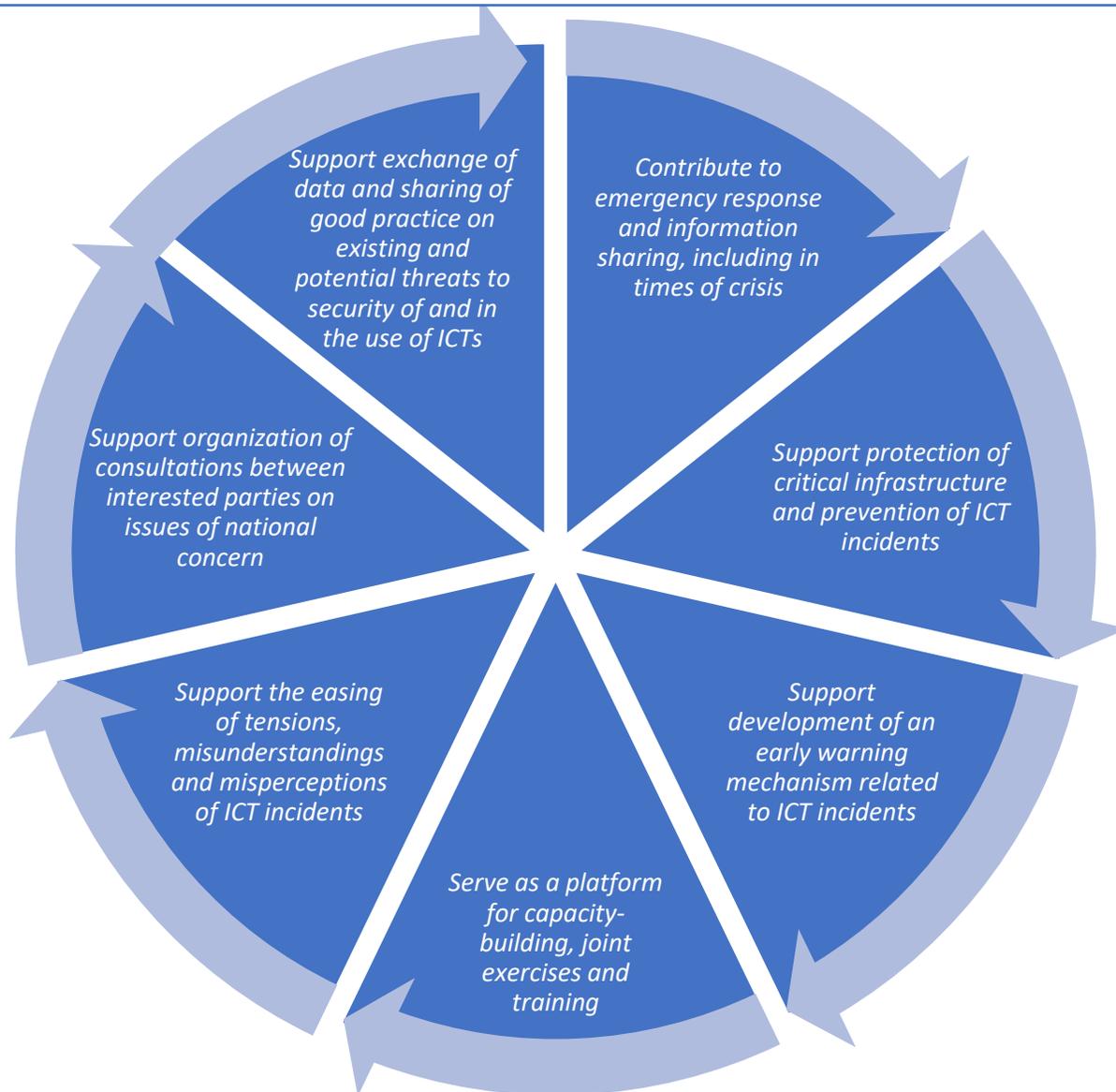
# Non-exhaustive snapshot of working principles

- 1. Establishment of a global points of contact directory could serve as a means to build confidence and facilitate exchange of information, including at times of crisis.*
- 2. The directory, as a confidence-building measure, could help to increase transparency and predictability, while also supporting a peaceful ICT environment and the peaceful resolution of disputes arising from the use of ICTs.*
- 3. Various activities, inter alia, practical cooperation and capacity building, could form part of the functioning of the directory. The directory should provide for equal participation by all States.*
- 4. States could draw upon on the experiences of (sub-)regional organizations as well as other relevant United Nations and regional cybersecurity mechanisms in the establishment of the directory.*
- 5. The directory should be established in accordance with the decisions of the OEWG and contributed to on a voluntary basis. Activities of the directory should take into account the recommendations elaborated by the OEWG.*
- 6. The United Nations should play a key role in the context of efforts to create a directory. The Office for Disarmament Affairs would be well-suited to serve as custodian.*

# Snapshot of other understandings of States

1. The establishment of a **voluntary** global directory is important to **advancing additional confidence-building measures** and for **implementing the agreed normative framework**.
2. Bearing in mind the different institutional settings of States and the need to maintain a degree of flexibility, **overly detailed arrangements** should be avoided.
3. Given the **sensitivity of relevant data**, the custodian (i.e., UN Secretariat) should take necessary measures to secure the directory. Information exchanged should remain **confidential**. Further action should be based on **mutual consent**.
4. States may wish to designate the **same points of contact** that are included in **relevant (sub-)regional directories**.
5. The directory should function based on the principles of **mutual respect and benefit, non-interference in the affairs of States, State equality, territorial sovereignty** and **political neutrality**.
6. **Capacity-building** is essential to ensuring the directory is well-functioning such that a dedicated action plan for identified points of contact could be developed.
7. **Regular communication checks, and possibly scenario-based exercises**, should be held to ensure the directory remains updated and operational.

# Non-exhaustive list of suggested functions



## Additional proposals:

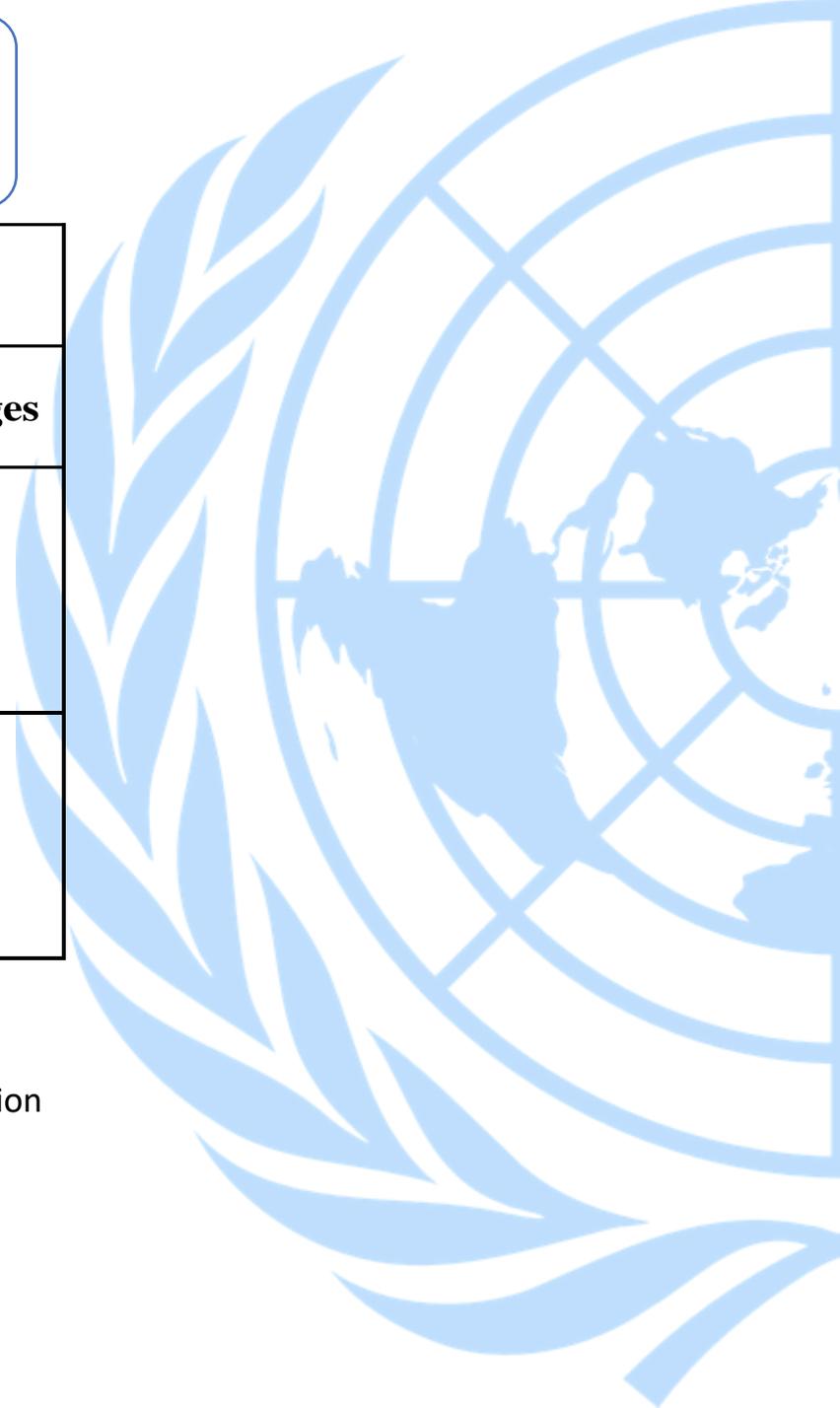
1. 'Ping' exercises conducted by the custodian to ensure directory is up-to-date
2. Periodic practical exercises/scenarios
3. Development of standardized templates to allow for exchanges, including facilitation of assistance requests
4. Prioritization of information submissions (high/medium priority requests)
5. 1-year review of the directory to consider its functionality and usefulness
6. Real-time threat sharing platform, including through alert notifications

# Practical submission of information

## UN Member State

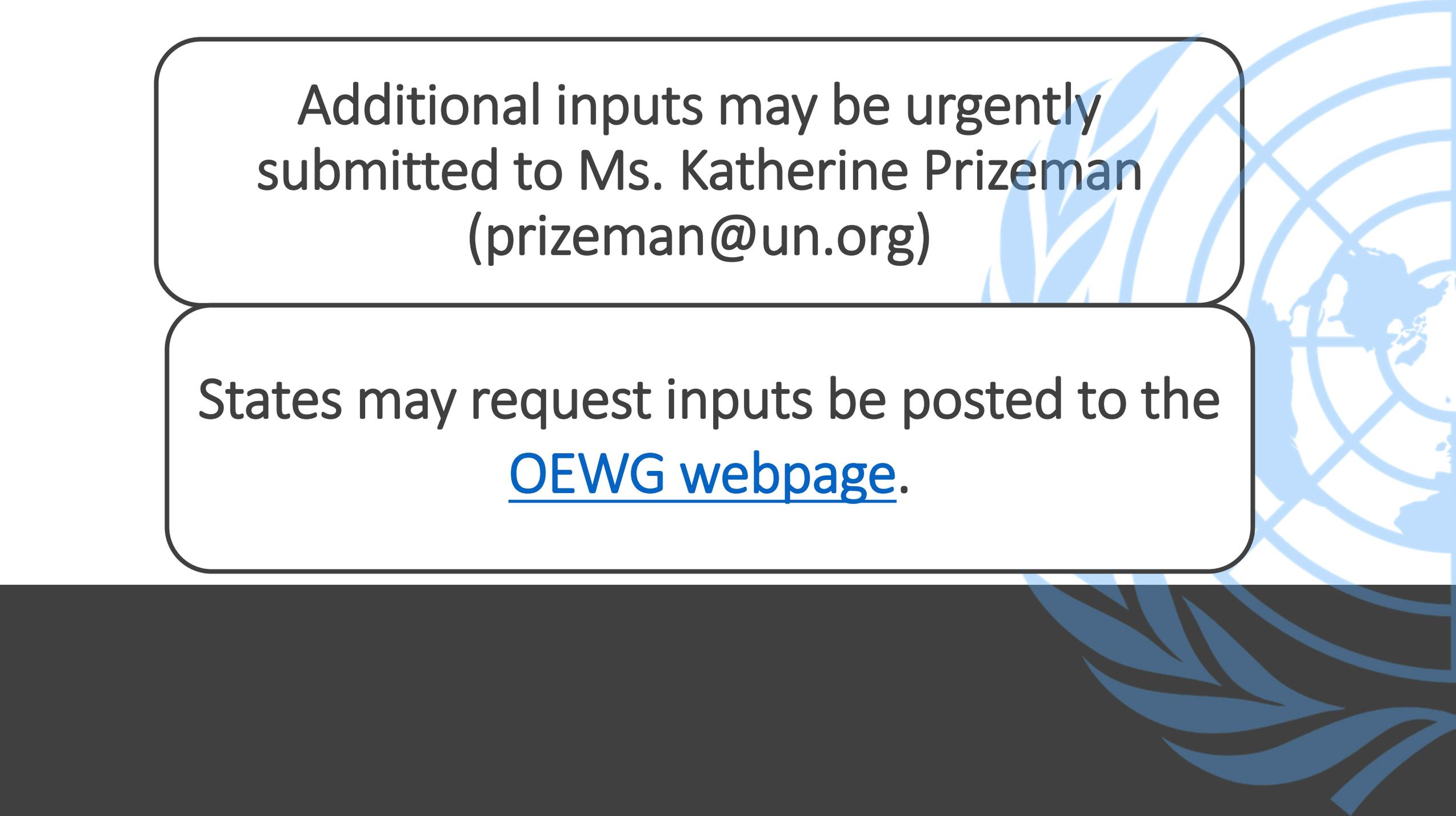
PoC	Organization (webpage)	E-mail	Phone	Languages
Diplomatic				
Technical				

- Information should be accepted in all official UN languages
- Custodian (i.e. UN Secretariat) should maintain a dedicated, online platform for this purpose
- Input may be unique and reflect domestic circumstances, i.e., listing of multiple agencies under one function
- Contact email/phone number may not be tied to a specific person
- Avoid redundancies by taking into account directories/communications at (sub-)regional levels



- *How should the competencies of the designated focal points be defined (technical, political, diplomatic, legal)?*
- *What will be the specific protocols and procedures for interaction and information exchange among the designated representatives? How should that interaction be managed?*
- *How often should the information of the directory be updated and what should be the minimum requirements for the information provided?*
- *Should the directory also provide for the provision of information by regional organizations and other relevant stakeholders?*
- *Should the information provided be available only to States? How should the directory be accessed?*
- *How and should the directory support capacity-building?*
- *Should the directory provide for a reporting function?*

Questions for further consideration



Additional inputs may be urgently submitted to Ms. Katherine Prizeman  
([prizeman@un.org](mailto:prizeman@un.org))

States may request inputs be posted to the  
[OEWG webpage](#).