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Views from the Centre of Excellence for National Security (CENS), S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to the UN OEWG ICTs 2021-2025 Informal Inter-sessional Meetings on the landscape of information and communications technologies capacity-building programmes and initiatives within and outside the United Nations at the global and regional levels

Chair,

We would like to thank you for reaching out to stakeholders in your effort to map the landscape of information and communications technologies capacity-building programmes and initiatives within and outside the United Nations at the global and regional levels. Most capacity-building programmes are state-driven or sponsored and CENS has had the privilege of participating at some of these initiatives as partners or trainers despite being an independent national security policy research think tank from Singapore based in the Nanyang Technological University.

We would like to share our experiences both within and outside the United Nations at both global and regional levels:

1. At the United Nations, CENS has been involved heavily in capacity building initiatives in past and present UN processes. CENS was active in putting together the **Norms Implementation Toolkit** with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in 2018. CENS contributed trainers and assisted in the review of the ‘**Cyberdiplomacy**’ online training course that UNODA developed with support from Singapore’s Cyber Security Agency (CSA) in 2019 and provided training to ASEAN diplomats at the launch of the course in Singapore the same year. CENS is also a key contributor to the **UN-Singapore Cybersecurity Programme (UNSCP)** since 2019 when it was launched. CENS is the lead implementor for the **Norms Implementation Checklist Workshops** under the UNSCP and also provides trainers for the **UN-Singapore Cyber Fellowship (UNSCF)**. CENS has also provided views to various UNIDIR studies, including the recently published study on state understandings on norms.
2. At a global level, CENS has participated and spoken at workshops organised by international organisations and other inter-regional meetings. CENS participated in

the ‘**Expert Meeting on International Humanitarian Law and the Growing Involvement of Civilians in Cyber and Other Digital Operations during Armed Conflicts**’ which was convened by the Geneva Academy and the International Committee of the Red Cross, from 28-29 September 2023. CENS has also been active in inter-regional dialogues, including those with Latin America and Northeast Asia. CENS researchers engaged with and presented to various stakeholders including governments, civil society, and academics in these forums to build common understandings on various issues in cyberspace.

3. On a regional level, CENS also provides training in cyber norms in ASEAN. CENS has participated in both regional and state-specific training sessions organised by the Australian Strategy Policy Institute (ASPI). This series of workshops is sponsored by the Australian and the United Kingdom governments to train ASEAN member states on the understandings of the norms agreed by the United Nations Group of Government Experts (UNGGE) in 2015. CENS has also organised dialogue sessions with regional partners together with ORF America with support from the Singapore and Netherlands governments.

By contributing, participating, and organising such activities at the United Nations and at global and regional levels, CENS aims to first, build a broader understanding of cyber norms, international law, and confidence building measures across the region; second, to support greater engagement in UNGGE, OEWG and ARF processes; and third, build a greater community of expertise globally.

Thank you Chair.

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