

In the Name of God

**Iran's submission**

**to the seventh substantive session of the Open-Ended  
Working Group on the security of and in the use of  
information and communications technologies 2021-2025  
(OEWG)**

4 - 8 March 2024, United Nations Headquarters (UNHQ), New York

**On**

**Regular Institutional Dialogue**

**Mr. Chair,**

According to resolution 75/240 acknowledged by consensus resolution 76/19, establishing regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations is one of the key mandates of the current OEWG. Pushing forward any format of the future dialogue on international information security outside the OEWG is absolutely unacceptable.

**Mr. Chair,**

The Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) has substantiated its efficiency and relevance in practice, making it the most effective format to be retained for ongoing regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations after 2025.

In contrast to the Programme of Action (PoA), the scope, content, and structure of which still remain unclear, a distinct "concept paper on a permanent decision-making Open-ended Working Group on the security of and in the use of information and communications technologies" has been submitted by a group of 13 States. It is appropriate for the OEWG to engage in a more comprehensive and detailed discussion and examination of this proposal.

**Mr. Chair,**

Aligned with the insightful intervention made by our colleague from Venezuela regarding the imperative for legally binding norms, we also believe that after a long history of 25 years of discussions on ICT security under the auspices of the United Nations, it is appropriate time for the OEWG to recommend the establishment of an ad hoc framework post-2025 to elaborate a comprehensive international convention aimed at realizing the collective aspirations of the international community for the exclusively peaceful use of ICTs for the common good of humankind.

A legally binding framework would address the legal gaps arising from the unique features of ICTs, fostering a more effective implementation of commitments and providing a solid foundation for holding actors accountable for their actions.

**Mr. Chair,**

My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the Chair's Discussion Paper on Draft Elements for the Permanent Mechanism on ICT Security in the context of international security. Recalling my previous request regarding the circulation of OEWG documents early enough to ensure a thorough, practical, and meaningful review and consultations by our related internal agencies, I would like to take this opportunity to provide some preliminary comments on the discussion paper on Draft Elements for the Permanent Mechanism.

**First**, future mechanism should be intergovernmental, consensus-based, democratic, and non-political;

**Second**, future mechanism should take into account the concerns and interests of all States through equal State participation in a fair and balanced manner;

**Third**, outcome documents of future mechanism should be finalized based on the practice of paragraph-by-paragraph negotiation exercise;

**fourth**, Engagement with non-state actors should adhere to the modalities established by the present OEWG;

**fifth**, The mandate and scope of the future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue should focus, inter alia, on the creation of a conflict-free, development-oriented, transparent, fair, moral, and peaceful ICT environment; development of new and legally binding rules; establishing a permanent mechanism and fund for capacity-building for

ICTs within the United Nations; outlining a multilateral, democratic, just, and transparent global Internet governance system with equal participation and joint decision-making of all countries; and addressing the responsibility of the private sector and platforms with extraterritorial impact.

**Finally,** my delegation welcomes the incorporation of the following elements in the Chair's discussion paper:

- Appointment of the Chair of the permanent mechanism based on the equitable geographical representation;
- Establishing a bureau for the permanent mechanism based on the principle of equitable geographical distribution;
- Establishment of dedicated thematic groups focused on specific issues; and
- The possibility of convening the formal and Inter-sessional meetings of the permanent mechanism at other appropriate locations, including the UN Office in Geneva, beyond the UNHQ in New York.

Once again, my delegation expresses appreciation to you, ambassador Ghafor, your team, and the secretariat for your hard and dedicated work during this session as well as the entire process.

**Thank you, Mr. Chair**