Republic of Korea, November 25, 2022

View of the Republic of Korea on the Global Points of Contact Directory

At the outset, it is the Republic of Korea’s view that cyber confidence-building measures (CBMs) are pivotal in enhancing transparency, predictability, and stability of cyberspace, and preventing conflicts and escalation, thereby contributing to a more peaceful international environment.

In this regard, the Republic of Korea (ROK) supports the creation of the United Nations global point of contact (POC) directory. We believe it will complement the regional and sub-regional POC directories and work as a starting point for global confidence building. The ROK is also a member of the open, informal and cross-regional group of states led by Germany to further advance CBMs within the Open-ended Working Group 2021-2025. This group is contributing to the discussions on the UN global POC directory by submitting focused joint working papers with specific ideas on what to learn from regional POC directories, how to run communication checks, advancing the global directory into exercises and training, and administrative issues.

Regional and sub-regional organizations have been playing leading roles in developing and implementing cyber CBMs. As the current co-chair and a long-standing, active member of the ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-sessional Meeting on ICTs Security, the ROK participated in the voluntary POC Directory led by Australia and Malaysia. The ROK voluntarily submitted the senior level and working level contacts for diplomatic, national security and policy coordination, enforcement, and technical functions; and provided detailed information including the name, title/position, email, phone, language, and availability for each function to the directory as it had a designated agency for respective functions. The ROK is also participating in ping tests based on this POC Directory.

Furthermore, as a Partner for Cooperation (PfC) to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the ROK is closely cooperating with the OSCE, aiming to bridge regional cooperation between Europe and Asia in cybersecurity. The ROK welcomed the suggestion to include the PfC’s POC to the expanded list of the OSCE POC Network and emphasized the importance of having the law-enforcement agencies in the Network. The ROK expressed its interest in acceding to the Budapest Convention to the Council of Europe to participate in international efforts in combating cyber crimes and become a part of the 24/7
Network of law-enforcement authorities.

It should also be noted that norms, CBMs, and capacity-building measures are closely linked and should be developed hand in hand to create a virtuous cycle. Hence, the importance of capacity building should not be overlooked in developing a global POC directory. The ROK plans to work closely with interested countries in need of such capacity building either bilaterally or in regional platforms.

The ROK believes the creation of the global POC directory should be approached in a voluntary, gradual, and inclusive manner. States should be encouraged to submit information each state deems appropriate to the directory. In the operation of this directory, already existing online platforms such as the portal site of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, could be utilized. Updates and communication checks should also be considered to keep the directory relevant and meaningful.

Building on the agreed language in the 2022 Annual Progress Report (APR) which passed in consensus the decision about the future establishment of a UN global POC directory in principle, the ROK will continue to participate in the discussions to lay the ground for consensus language concerning the detailed set-up and modalities of the directory in the next APR.

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