

**Statement by the representative of the Russian Federation
at the informal intersessional meeting of the Open-ended Working Group
on Security of and in the Use of ICTs 2021-2025**

New York, 6 December 2022

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Interaction with other interested parties

Distinguished Mr.Chair,

Distinguished colleagues,

As this segment of our informal meeting is specifically dedicated to interaction with regional and non-governmental organizations, Russia would like to offer some comments on this issue.

We presume that UN Member States should carefully consider all requests from third-party organizations to join the activities of the OEWG. In case of Russia, decisions are made after thorough analysis of information and observations about the activities of non-state actors. Regretfully, some “independent” representatives of businesses, NGOs and academia distort facts and combine convenient opportunistic conclusions. In other words, they fulfill political orders and bring no added value to the discussions.

As an example of such an approach, I would like to cite the latest review of the National Cyber Capability Index 2022 issued by the so-called “Center of Excellence” of the University of Pennsylvania (Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard John F.Kennedy School).

Under the pretext of research activities, experts tried to denigrate Russia as a malefactor in information sphere, primarily as an organizer of computer attacks. Unsubstantiated accusations were made of the alleged use by our country of the entire range of its ICT capabilities within the special military operation to destroy the enemy’s infrastructure, control its information space, and discredit the policy of Ukraine and its “allies”. On the basis of speculations, Russia is said to collaborate with cybercriminals – such connections are allegedly our strategic approach to attaining global political ambitions.

False and distorted assessments made by the Center are being replicated by other “scientists” from NGOs, companies and, sadly, even by one of the delegates here today. Such pseudo-expert conclusions should have no place in the OEWG.

At the same time, some countries abuse their right to accredit NGOs to the OEWG and block requests of certain organizations on the mere basis of country origin. This informal intersessional meeting allowed several non-state actors from Russia to participate in the OEWG discussions, and we would like to thank the Chair for this valuable opportunity.

In further activities of the OEWG, when considering applications of other interested parties, Russia will continue to be guided by the criteria of professionalism, technical expertise, readiness for depoliticized dialogue and compliance with the mandate of the OEWG. We encourage other Member States to follow the same approach.

Thank you for attention.