South African Statement Agenda Item 5 on the "Capacity Building," at the 4th Substantive Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

9 March 2023

Thank you, Chairperson.

South Africa supports the exchange of views on capacity-building using the UN as a focal point for sharing information on opportunities for capacity-building available to States.

The establishment of a PoC network or portal would allow States that require assistance to voluntarily share their needs and would allow States or organisations that offer assistance a central point to announce their availability for such exchanges.

South Africa supports capacity-building efforts in line with the principles agreed to in the report of the first OEWG. Specific activities should have a clear purpose and be results focused, while supporting the shared objective of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment. Capacity-building should be a sustainable process, even after mandate of this OEWG ends.

Each State should conduct a needs-based assessment on capacity requirements such as functioning methods, tools and institutions to ensure that capacity building initiatives address recipients' needs. The national implementation survey is one such tool that may assist States with identifying gaps in capacity.

The involvement of all gender groups, specifically women, is a priority when discussing gender-sensitive capacity building at the policy level.

Lastly, South Africa believes that capacity-building can also be achieved at the national level through domestic engagement of businesses, civil society organisations and academia. States could identify gaps and challenges or leverage further assistance with capacity-building through interaction with all relevant stakeholders.

Thank you.