United States Submission Pursuant to ODA/2024-0017, "Global ICT Security Cooperation and Capacity-Building Portal"

The United States is pleased to share its views on the proposal for the development and operationalization of a dedicated Global ICT Security Cooperation and Capacity-Building Portal, pursuant to ODA/2024-0017.

The United States views the extensive existing network of cyber capacity building efforts as a source of optimism. At the same time, we recognize that there are ways in which existing resources and portals that showcase this evolving and complex landscape may be improved in the near term, and we welcome the proposal for a Global ICT Security Cooperation and Capacity Building Portal.

We consider the Programme of Action (POA)[1] to be the ideal forum to put the portal into action. As supported by a large majority of UN Member States and endorsed by the current Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), the POA would serve as the future permanent, single-track, action-oriented, inclusive, and flexible mechanism under the UN First Committee to be launched at the conclusion of the current OEWG.[2] Such a permanent forum will need a dedicated platform to support its work. The portal should exist as an integral part of the permanent POA, not independent from it.

The portal for the future permanent mechanism should be comprehensive in nature and designed in a manner to facilitate cooperation and knowledge sharing among states across all aspects of the mechanism's mandate. It could also serve as a resource for states looking to sharing information on their national implementation efforts related to the Framework, as well as enabling connection with the multistakeholder community and the resources/expertise they can provide. As seen during the ongoing discussions of the OEWG, conversations on implementing the Framework naturally leads to consideration of capacity building requirements for proper and full implementation, making the portal a useful tool for States as they look to undertake this work. Situating the portal under the purview of the POA will help ensure its action-oriented nature in assisting States with framework implementation.

At the same time, the Global ICT Security Cooperation and Capacity Building Portal should complement existing mechanisms rather than duplicate them. We recognize there are many ongoing bilateral, regional, and private sector capacity building projects. The GCSCP should link to existing portals such as those maintained by the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), to avoid duplication and ensure that States have a holistic understanding of existing work that could be leveraged in their efforts to implement the Framework. The United States believes that the UN should continue to play a helpful role in supporting such information sharing, and a portal could be a valuable tool in this regard. The UN should not develop a new operational role in the administration or execution of cyber capacity building; instead, it should use its unique convening ability and its limited resources to help build connections among this robust community of states, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

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[1] A/RES/77/37 and A/RES/78/26
[2] A/AC.292/2024/CRP.1, Annex C, Paragraph 4

The United States appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposal for a new portal to support the implementation of the Framework of Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace and looks forward to continuing to discuss it in the context of the Open-Ended Working Group and the future permanent POA.