

**First Committee of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly**

**Cluster 5 (Other Disarmament Measures and International Security)**

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Mr. Chair,

Over the past couple of decades, the human race has witnessed advancement in digital technology like never before. As much as this development has brought us unprecedented economic and social benefits, with more people online since the global pandemic, we have become ever more vulnerable to malicious cyber activities and cyber threats. State and non-state actors' behaviors in cyberspace further complicate the international security landscape.

Notwithstanding the complexity of the challenges we face, the international community must work together to make an **open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace**. In this regard, the Republic of Korea supports the United Nations' central role in the ongoing discussions to address the pressing concerns and advance responsible State behavior in cyberspace. I would like to highlight the following points in particular.

First, the Republic of Korea welcomes the successful conclusion of the third substantive session of the second Open-ended Working Group (OEWG). My delegation also welcomes the consensus on the 2022 annual progress report of the OEWG this July, and we support the Chair's Decision to endorse this consensus report. The Republic of Korea will continue our constructive engagement in the OEWG by building on this Progress Report adopted by consensus. We also wish to bring to attention the need to establish a permanent mechanism within the UN, such as the Programme of Action, to enhance practical implementation of the norms and encourage the exchange of best practices and capacity-building.

Second, the Republic of Korea believes that the consensus reached in the OEWGs and the previous Group of Governmental Experts (GGEs) reflects the progress made in the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behavior in the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs). Accordingly, as UN Member States agreed that there is

no vacuum of legalities in cyberspace, international law, including the UN Charter, in its entirety must be equally applied to cyberspace. Furthermore, States should faithfully uphold and implement the voluntary, non-binding norms in the consensus reports of the OEWGs and GGEs. In particular, the Republic of Korea believes the principle of due diligence plays a crucial role in ensuring a secure cyberspace and would like to collaborate with the Member States to clarify and concretize the relevant norms.

Third, the Republic of Korea is a staunch supporter of confidence building measures (CBMs) and capacity-building. The Republic of Korea believes that appropriate CBMs can limit the risk of conflict deriving from misunderstanding and miscalculation. We will cooperate with the Member States to firmly establish and implement the relevant mechanisms. The Republic of Korea, as one of the leading countries in the field of ICTs, will endeavor to bridge the gap in cyber defense capabilities. We are also actively engaged in capacity-building efforts in regional fora, such as ASEAN and the ASEAN Regional Forum.

Mr. Chair,

My delegation believes that engagement, empowerment and education of the young generation can lead to valuable contributions to the global non-proliferation regime with their innovative and forward-looking perspective. Since 2019, all Member States adopted a biennial resolution entitled “Youth, disarmament and non-proliferation” with a consensus. Also, the draft Final Document of the last NPT Review Conference recognized the importance of diverse voices and commitment to empower and enable youth participation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. As a Champion of Action 38 of the Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament, the Republic of Korea will continue to lead the agenda and commit to furthering this endeavor.

Thank you. /END/