GERMAN INPUT TO BACKGROUND PAPER ON A GLOBAL POINTS OF CONTACT DIRECTORY

As a member of the open, cross-regional and informal group of states to advance CBMs in the OEWG 2021-25 Germany has contributed to the proposal of a UN PoC directory by submitting a Joint Working Paper in July that includes technical and institutional recommendations for such a directory. Further, Germany alongside the other members of the group will submit a second Joint Working paper on the topic of a PoC directory ahead of the December inter-sessional meeting.

In addition to the two Joint Working Papers, Germany would like to submit the following additional input for the background paper to be prepared by UNODA:

- Germany regards the establishment of a global PoC directory as an essential prerequisite for advancing confidence-building measures (CBMs) and for implementing the international normative framework of responsible state behavior in cyberspace. As a member of the OSCE, Germany is convinced that regional organizations have considerable experience and best practice to share in the establishment, maintenance and use of PoC directories.

- The PoC directory should be established on a voluntary basis and be based on a decision of the OEWG 2021-25.

- The PoC directory should provide the possibility to nominate both diplomatic/policy and technical PoCs. Ideally, those PoCs should be the same as the ones nominated by member states in regional organizations.

- The directory should be managed online and updated through a specific request by the administrative body to all member states at least once each year. Further, participating member states should have the possibility to update their national PoCs at any time by sending the relevant information to the administrative body.

- There should be minimum requirements about information on the PoCs such as email address and telephone contact. Further, participating member states should be able to provide additional information such as names, addresses or institutional affiliation of the PoC.

- The main function of the PoC directory should be to enable communication among participating stakeholders, particularly in times of crisis, in order to prevent conflict and reduce the risk of misunderstanding.

- Further, it could provide a platform for coordination, joint exercises and training more generally.

- As a first step, participation should be limited to member states. Building on initial practice and experience, other stakeholders such as regional organizations, private sector, academia and civil society could be incorporated as well.

- The PoC directory should be managed by UNODA which would need to be equipped with limited additional financial and human resources for this purpose.

- UNODA should be responsible for ensuring proper functioning of PoC communication and keeping the directory up-to-date and for this purpose conduct PING tests.
Conduction of exercises and trainings with members of the PoC directory could be offered by all participating member states which would be assisted by UNODA in the practical implementation.