Dear colleagues,

I have the honour of addressing you in my capacity as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025 (OEWG), established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 75/240 adopted on 31 December 2020.

I am pleased to invite interested stakeholders, including businesses, non-governmental organisations and academia to attend the informal inter-sessional meetings of the OEWG which will be convened from 5 to 9 December 2022. The meetings will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (UNHQ), with the hybrid option made available for those stakeholders who are not able to participate in-person.

These informal inter-sessional meetings will include focused discussions on the topic of confidence-building, as mandated in the Annual Progress Report, i.e. “the OEWG Chair is requested to convene an inter-sessional meeting with States, regional and subregional organizations and interested stakeholders as appropriate, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia, no later than the beginning of the fourth session, to discuss topics which could support and foster confidence-building”, and in particular with regard to the establishment of a global, inter-governmental Points of Contact directory (POC directory). In addition, I have also allocated time for focused discussions on other areas under the OEWG’s mandate.

In line with my objective of facilitating the sustained, systematic and substantive participation of interested stakeholders, I have dedicated a session on Tuesday, 6 December from 1500hrs to 1800hrs for stakeholders and regional organizations to make statements and share proposals on the specific topics of confidence-building, confidence-building measures (CBMs) and the POC directory. I also intend to give stakeholders the opportunity to make interventions after delegations have spoken during the other thematic sessions scheduled throughout the week, subject to the availability of time.
A preliminary schedule of the informal inter-sessional meetings is enclosed for stakeholders’ reference. The finalised schedule, as well as guiding questions to help focus our discussions, will be circulated in mid-November.

The registration details for the informal inter-sessional meetings are also enclosed. I also encourage you to send any written input to cyberOEWGChair@gmail.com and prizeman@un.org, to be made available on the dedicated OEWG webpage (https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-information-and-communication-technologies-2021). I look forward to your continued active and constructive participation in the forthcoming informal inter-sessional meetings.

Burhan Gafoor
Chair
Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025

Enclosures:

- Annex A – Preliminary Schedule for Informal Inter-Sessional Meetings in December 2022
- Annex B - Registration Details for Interested Stakeholders
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<tr>
<th>Monday, 5 Dec</th>
<th>Tuesday, 6 Dec</th>
<th>Wednesday, 7 Dec</th>
<th>Thursday, 8 Dec</th>
<th>Friday, 9 Dec</th>
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<td>Opening Remarks</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session: POC Directory</strong>&lt;br&gt;1000hrs – 1300hrs&lt;br&gt;• Briefing by UNODA and UNIDIR on preliminary findings regarding POC directory, followed by interactive discussions with delegations&lt;br&gt;• Delegations to engage in focused discussions on concrete next steps vis-à-vis establishment of POC directory</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Sessions:</strong>&lt;br&gt;(a) Existing and Potential Threats, and (b) Rules, Norms, and Principles of Responsible State Behaviour&lt;br&gt;1000hrs – 1300hrs&lt;br&gt;• Focused discussion on topics identified in APR</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session:</strong> Capacity-building&lt;br&gt;1000hrs – 1300hrs&lt;br&gt;• Presentation and discussion of concept paper(s) submitted by delegations&lt;br&gt;• Responses from delegations</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session:</strong> Regular Institutional Dialogue&lt;br&gt;1000hrs – 1300hrs&lt;br&gt;• Focused discussion to further elaborate the PoA&lt;br&gt;• Discussion on regular institutional dialogue and on proposals by States to facilitate regular institutional dialogue on security in the use of ICTs</td>
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<td><strong>Evening</strong>&lt;br&gt;Reception hosted by OEWG Chair</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session:</strong> Confidence-building Measures&lt;br&gt;1000hrs – 1300hrs&lt;br&gt;• Presentation and discussion of concept paper(s) submitted by delegations&lt;br&gt;• Responses from delegations&lt;br&gt;1500hrs – 1800hrs&lt;br&gt;• Statements and proposals by stakeholders and regional organizations on CBMs</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session:</strong> International Law&lt;br&gt;1500hrs – 1800hrs&lt;br&gt;• Focused discussion on topics identified in APR</td>
<td><strong>Thematic Session:</strong>&lt;br&gt;1500hrs – 1800hrs&lt;br&gt;• Focused discussion on topics identified in APR</td>
<td><strong>Free time for Consultations amongst delegations and/or with OEWG Chair</strong></td>
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REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR INTERESTED STAKEHOLDERS

If you wish to participate in the informal inter-sessional meetings taking place from 5 to 9 December 2022, please register at the Microsoft Forms link provided below no later than 6pm (New York local time) on Monday, 28 November 2022. Each participant should register individually at the following link: https://forms.office.com/r/DWDgCsbuR4.

Please note that there will be no pre-established speakers list for the informal inter-sessional meetings. Participants will be able to inscribe on the speakers list during the course of the meeting. Confirmed participants will receive login details prior to the meeting.

Additional Information


Specific queries may be directed to Ms. Katherine Prizeman, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, prizeman@un.org.