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Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

Fifth substantive session

New York, 24–28 July 2023

Draft second annual progress report of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution [75/240](#), the General Assembly decided to convene, starting from 2021, with a view to ensuring the uninterrupted and continuous nature of the democratic, inclusive and transparent negotiation process on security in the use of information and communications technologies, under the auspices of the United Nations, a new open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, acting on a consensus basis, to continue, as a priority, to further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States and the ways for their implementation and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour; to consider initiatives of States aimed at ensuring security in the use of information and communications technologies; to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, regular institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States; to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats, and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as confidence-building measures and capacity-building; and to submit, for adoption by consensus, annual progress reports and a final report on the results of its work to the Assembly at its eightieth session.

2. The first annual progress report of the working group, on its organizational session and its first, second and third substantive sessions, was issued as document [A/77/275](#).



II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the fourth and fifth substantive sessions

3. The working group held its fourth substantive session from 6 to 10 March 2023 and its fifth substantive session from 24 to 28 July 2023, at United Nations Headquarters.

4. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research provided substantive support for the working group. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provided secretariat services.

B. Attendance

5. Participants in the fourth and fifth substantive sessions are listed in documents [A/AC.292/2023/INF/2](#) and [A/AC.292/2023/INF/4](#).

C. Officers

6. At its fourth and fifth substantive sessions, the working group was chaired by Mr. Burhan Gafoor (Singapore).

D. Organization of work

7. At the 1st meeting of the fourth substantive session, on 6 March 2023, the working group agreed on its organization of work as contained in document [A/AC.292/2023/2/Rev.1](#). It also approved the participation in the working group of the non-governmental entities listed in document [A/AC.292/2023/INF/1](#).

8. At the 1st meeting of the fifth substantive session, on 24 July 2023, the working group agreed on its organization of work as contained in document [A/AC.292/2023/3](#). It also approved the participation in the working group of the non-governmental entities listed in document [A/AC.292/2023/INF/3](#).

E. Documentation

9. A full list of all official documents, working papers, technical papers and other documents before the working group can be found at the dedicated website (<https://meetings.unoda.org/open-ended-working-group-on-information-and-communication-technologies-2021>).

F. Proceedings of the working group

10. At its fourth substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3, 5 and 6 at its 10 plenary meetings.

11. At its fifth substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3 and 5 to 7 at its 10 plenary meetings.

12. From 5 to 9 December 2022, on 2 March 2023 and from 23 to 26 May 2023, the Chair convened intersessional meetings to hear views on the topics under consideration by the working group, as contained in the mandate of the working group

set out in General Assembly resolution [75/240](#) and the agenda of the working group ([A/AC.292/2021/1](#)) and pursuant to Assembly decision 77/512.

13. On 9 March and 26 July 2023, in accordance with the agreed modalities for the participation of stakeholders, dedicated stakeholder sessions were held during the 8th meeting of the fourth substantive session and 5th meeting of the fifth substantive session.

14. On 1 March, 22 May and 11 July 2023, the Chair convened informal consultative discussions with interested stakeholders, including businesses, non-governmental entities and academia, to hear views on the topics under consideration by the open-ended working group, as contained in the mandate of the working group set out in General Assembly resolution [75/240](#) and the agenda of the working group ([A/AC.292/2021/1](#)), and concrete ideas that the working group could consider going forward.

III. Adoption of the report

15. At its fifth substantive session, on 28 July 2023, the working group considered agenda item 7, entitled “Adoption of annual progress reports”, and adopted the draft report of the open-ended working group ([A/AC.292/2023/L.1](#)). It also decided to include in its report the outcome of the discussions of the working group on agenda item 5, as contained in document [A/AC.292/2023/CRP.1](#) (see annex).

Annex

Progress report on the discussions of the working group on agenda item 5

[to be completed]
