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

Eighth substantive session
New York, 8–12 July 2024

Draft third 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](#). The second annual progress report of the working group, on its fourth and fifth substantive sessions, was issued as document [A/78/265](#).



II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the sixth, seventh and eighth substantive sessions

3. The working group held its sixth substantive session from 11 to 15 December 2023, its seventh substantive session from 4 to 8 March 2024 and its eighth substantive session from 8 to 12 July 2024, 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 sixth, seventh and eighth substantive sessions are listed in documents [A/AC.292/2023/INF/7](#), [A/AC.292/2024/INF/2](#) and [A/AC.292/2024/INF/4](#), respectively.

C. Officers

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

D. Organization of work

7. At the 1st meeting of the sixth substantive session, on 11 December 2023, the working group agreed on its organization of work as contained in document [A/AC.292/2023/4](#). It also approved the participation in the working group of the non-governmental entities listed in document [A/AC.292/2023/INF/6](#).

8. At the 1st meeting of the seventh substantive session, on 4 March 2024, the working group agreed on its organization of work as contained in document [A/AC.292/2024/1](#). It also approved the participation in the working group of the non-governmental entities listed in document [A/AC.292/2024/INF/1](#).

9. At the 1st meeting of the eighth substantive session, on 8 July 2024, the working group agreed on its organization of work as contained in document [A/AC.292/2024/4](#). It also approved the participation in the working group of the non-governmental entities listed in document [A/AC.292/2024/INF/3](#).

E. Documentation

10. 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

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

12. At its seventh substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3, 5 and 6 at its 10 plenary meetings.
13. At its eighth substantive session, the working group considered agenda items 3, 5, 6 and 7 at its 10 plenary meetings.
14. From 13 to 17 May and on 1 July 2024, the Chair convened dedicated 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), pursuant to Assembly decisions 77/512 and 78/541, featuring expert briefings on selected topics by experts drawn from a list of nominated experts submitted by delegations, with the participation of interested stakeholders.
15. On 9 May 2024, the Chair convened the first meeting of points of contact of the global points of contact directory, pursuant to document A/78/265 and General Assembly decision 78/541. The first meeting of points of contact also marked the formal launch of the global points of contact directory.
16. On 10 May 2024, the Chair convened the inaugural high-level global round table on information and communications technology security capacity-building, pursuant to General Assembly decision 78/541, to provide a platform for capacity-building practitioners, State representatives and interested stakeholders to exchange ideas, share best practices and build partnerships with the aim of enhancing synergies and advancing the international community's work on capacity-building in concrete ways.
17. On 28 September 2023 and 31 January, 27 March and 10 June 2024, the Chair convened virtual informal meetings to provide delegations with briefings on elements under consideration by the working group.
18. On 13 December 2023 and 6 March and 10 July 2024, in accordance with the agreed modalities for the participation of stakeholders, dedicated stakeholder sessions were held during the 6th meeting of the sixth substantive session, the 6th meeting of the seventh substantive session and the 5th meeting of the eighth substantive session.
19. On 6 December 2023 and 28 February and 3 July 2024, 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

20. At its eighth substantive session, on 12 July 2024, 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.292/2024/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.292/2024/CRP.X, [as orally revised] (see annex).

Annex

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

[to be completed]
