



*The Permanent Mission of Portugal
to the United Nations*

OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (FIRST SUBSTANTIVE
SESSION): GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

STATEMENT BY PORTUGAL

*Delivered by Mr. José Amaral
Minister Counsellor*

Permanent Representation of Portugal to the United Nations

New York, 10 of September 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to congratulate you on your appointment as Chair of this Open-ended Working Group. I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

Portugal fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union. I would also like to make complementary comments in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Cyberspace has become essential to the functioning of our societies, supporting our businesses, infrastructures and other services. To ensure global connectivity and economic growth, we advocate an

open, stable and secure cyberspace where human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law fully apply.

Our growing dependence on information and communication technologies brought also significant exposure to sophisticated malicious cyber activity that could destabilize cyberspace, threaten our prosperity and even international peace and security.

In order to face those challenges and promote stability in cyberspace, several UN GGE's addressed the application of international law, including the UN Charter in its entirety, and norms of responsible behavior in cyberspace, confidence building measures and capacity building.

We should build on the work already done by the previous GGE's and remain committed to the implementation of their Reports, in particular those of 2010, 2013 and 2015, adopted by consensus and endorsed by the UNGA.

Mr. Chairman,

At last year's session of UNGA's 1C it was decided to establish two different mechanisms with similar mandates: another UN GGE and this new OEWG. To avoid unnecessary duplication, these two processes must work in complementarity and close coordination.

The OEWG, having the advantage of including all Member States, can play an important role in raising awareness, building common understanding and advancing effective implementation of previously agreed rules, norms and principles of State behavior, as well as CBM's.

We also see added value in further discussing capacity building at this OEWG, as stronger international cooperation and partnerships

are essential to develop the capacity to address cyber threats and implementation of norms of responsible behavior in cyberspace.

Mr. Chairman,

The OEWG is also an opportunity for an inclusive process, reaching out to other stakeholders that could be an essential part of a solution to a deteriorating environment in cyberspace. In this respect, we stress the importance of the informal multi-stakeholder segment, allowing exchanges of positions with relevant actors from academia, the private sector and civil society.

To conclude,

Portugal is convinced that an universal cyber security framework can only be grounded in existing international law, including the UN Charter in its entirety, international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

Our expectation is that this first session of the OEWG will further promote dialogue and cooperation among the UN membership to advance understanding on the application of international law to cyberspace, thus contributing to conflict prevention and international stability.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.