



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE UNITED
NATIONS*

STATEMENT
BY

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DURING

THE GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
AT THE

1ST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF OPEN-ENDED WORKING ON
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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Check Against Delivery

**KENYA STATEMENT TO THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG)
IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Republic of Kenya, I would like to congratulate you, Amb Jurg Lauber on your election as the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG). I assure you of Kenya's full support and cooperation in your stewardship of this process. Kenya also looks forward to working constructively with the Secretariat and with all the distinguished delegations. Kenya aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Kenya and indeed Africa as whole has continued to be influenced positively by developments in the cyberspace as evident from improved ICT infrastructure, consumer literacy and better connectivity to all remote geographic areas, among other factors.

The impressive Internet growth in Kenya has escalated due to the popularity in the use of;

- a. Social media Services,
- b. E-government services,
- c. Increased adoption of mobile money services,
- d. Establishment of a Digital Economy Blueprint which is a framework to improve Kenya's and Africa's ability to catapult economic growth,
- e. Digital School,
- f. Innovation
- g. Ajira program (empowering young Kenyans to secure digital jobs)
- h. And many other factors.

Mr Chairman,

New technologies and services continue to emerge thereby creating new possibilities in the digital world. This is quickly redefining new business models a situation that could not be seen a generation ago. However, this growth has made Kenya like other

developing countries, prone to cyber threats, exposing the country to an exponential growth in cyber-attacks.

The Government of Kenya has put in place several measures to enhance the national cybersecurity atmosphere and thus promote the growth of electronic commerce (E-Commerce) and related services including e-Government services. These measures include the following key actions:

- i. Development of Necessary Policies, Strategies and laws including a Data Protection law
- j. Establishment of Kenya National Computer Incident Response Team - Coordination Centre (National KE-CIRT/CC), a multi-agency collaboration framework which is responsible for the national coordination of cybersecurity as Kenya's national point of contact on cybersecurity matters. This was achieved through the collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), among other partners. The National CIRT has since grown and continued to collaborate with other member states, service providers and other National CIRTs.

Mr Chairman,

Kenya's expectations from the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)

Cyber security is a shared responsibility. Kenya expects that outcomes from the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) during the ongoing review of the norms and principles of responsible state behavior in cyberspace framework would enhance international cooperation. Kenya wants continued ICT growth while protecting critical information infrastructure.

we prioritize the building of necessary capacities to internet consumers, to provide them with information and skills to enable them practice safe Internet use and minimize/eliminate exposure to risks and vulnerabilities. We believe necessary international

financial infrastructure for funding capacity building needs to be put in place. Such funding mechanisms should prioritize those furthest behind especially in the developing world.

Development of inclusive Cooperative and inclusive frameworks at national, regional and International level to detect, prevent and respond to various threats in the cyber space remains of utmost importance to Kenya. A framework that enhances cybersecurity and facilitates the ICT growth remains an optimal objective.

Building the capabilities to raise cybersecurity awareness and developing the necessary workforce to address cybersecurity needs remains critical to achieving security and stability in cyberspace. This is expected to reduce risks while at the same time increase trust for all users.

We reiterate the need to develop a harmonized framework for the management of cybercrime in the cyber space, especially given the borderless nature of cybercrime. Cyber security is indeed a shared responsibility and so Kenya will continue to participate in this open-ended process in enhancing a secure cyberspace in order to;

- a) Promote internet freedom and build support for an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable cyberspace.
- b) Secure networks by setting clear security targets.
- c) improve partnership with the Academia and private sector players.
- d) Create awareness and capacity building on matters of Cybersecurity.
- e) Harmonize National, Regional and international partnership for effective cybercrime management, including inter-agency coordination and collaboration.
- f) Improve ability to identify and report cyber incidents to respond in a timely manner

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate Kenya's commitment to active participation in the OEWG which we believe will go a long way in the global management of information security. We expect that both the OEWG and the GGE process will result in mutually complementary reports to take this Important International security agenda forward.

I thank you