

**Statement by Counsellor Wu Jianjian, Head of the Chinese Delegation
at the General Exchange of Views of the First Substantive Session
of the Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the Use of
Information and Communications Technologies**

December 14, 2021

Mr. Chairman, colleagues,

I would like to begin by congratulating Ambassador Gafoor for assuming the chairmanship of this Working Group. We trust that under your leadership, the OEWG will make positive progress. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you, Mr. Chairman and the Secretariat for your hard work leading up to this meeting.

Colleagues,

The pandemic is propelling digitization and ICT application. Digital economy has become a new engine of recovery for countries. Data has become a new driving force for innovation and development. Humankind is leap-frogging into a new era of digital civilization. Meanwhile, cyber security risks and challenges are raising and unabated, with cyber attacks, cyber crime and cyber terrorism posing serious threats to critical information infrastructure. Some countries and military blocks have been developing offensive cyber capabilities and sophisticated cyber weapons endangering international peace and security. Faced with these challenges, the Working Group should stay committed to the pursuit of cooperation and peace by formulating international rules governing the cyberspace, shaping a new digital governance order in line with the will and interest of most countries.

First, we should strengthen unity and cooperation. This year, the OEWG and the GGE have successfully concluded their reports, and the

General Assembly has adopted by consensus a resolution on ICTs, supporting OEWG's work as mandated by resolution 75/240. This highlights the common desire of the international community to strengthen dialogue and cooperation to promote the development of international rules for cyberspace. We should practice true multilateralism, work together for positive progress in the OEWG, build an open and inclusive UN cyber security mechanism with universal participation.

The future of the internet should not and cannot possibly be controlled by a handful of countries. Forming ideologically exclusive small circles and clinging on to ICT monopoly and cyber harmony will only hinder multilateral efforts to promote cyber security. Certain countries have sought to launch the so called "alliance for future of the internet" which is nothing but the example of attempts to divide the internet, seek technology monopoly and cyberspace hegemony and suppress the science and technology development of other countries only to serve their own geopolitical agenda. They claim to build an open internet, but in fact are stirring up confrontation and dividing the internet, which completely runs counter to internet spirit of peace, security, openness and cooperation, and the common interest of international community.

Second, we should maintain peace in cyberspace. The discussion of the Working Group should stay the course of pursuing peace in cyberspace. The discussion on application of existing international law in cyberspace should at all times be based on the premise of neither encouraging nor legitimizing conflicts. In addition, the application of the sovereignty principle in cyberspace is an important means to ensure peace, stability and security in cyberspace. We should approach the issue from different dimensions to flesh it out and leave no stone unturned.

Third, we should strengthen international rules on cyberspace. Thanks to the joint efforts of all parties, previous OEWG and GGEs have successfully reached agreement on multiple reports. We should work to translate existing consensus into political commitments in cyberspace and pledge to abide by

them, which is crucial for their effective implementation. In the long run, the international community should also come up with legally binding norms. To this end, China supports the idea of a political commitment based on recommendations, norms and principles already agreed upon as contained in the Programme of Action proposed by a number of countries.

Meanwhile, we should, in line with the attributes of ICTs and the needs of evolving situation, discuss the formulation of new norms. Data Security is a prominent new challenge facing all countries. Based on the mandate of the resolution, parties would hold in-depth discussions on issues of cross border data flow, supply chain security, and personal information protection, and explore appropriate responses. China's Global Initiative on Data Security could serve as a preliminary basis for discussion.

Fourth, we should strike balance between security and development. Security and economic development is mutually reinforcing and enabling. Access to and development of digital and cyber technologies, products and services by all countries, especially developing countries, is critical to bridging the digital divide and achieving SDGs. Countries should provide an open, fair and non-discriminatory business environment. Maintaining cyber security should not hinder countries' peaceful use of digital technologies. The GGE's consensus report this year requests all parties to formulate global, objective and interoperable supply chain security standards. All parties would match their words with this and abide by UN consensus.

Mr. Chairman,

Regarding the pending organizational issues of Working Group, China notes with appreciation that many countries and groups of countries expressed, in their statements during the general exchange of views, support for the Chair's proposal. China always hopes that this Working Group will follow the precedent set by the first OEWG in dealing with the participation of non-governmental stakeholders. Considering the immense efforts the Chair has made to bridge differences and to ensure the smooth conduct of work of the Working Group in accordance with the GA mandate, China calls

upon relevant countries to show flexibility, refrain from stirring up confrontation and division, and avoid negative impact on the substantive discussions of this member states-led inter-governmental process.

Colleagues,

China has always been constructively engaged in UN cyber security process. We stand ready to work with all parties towards positive progress of the OEWG.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.