



**CHAIR OF
THE COORDINATING BUREAU
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**



NAM Statement

Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies

Agenda item: General Exchange of Views

The First Substantive Session, 13-17 December 2021

Mr. Chair,

1. In our capacity as the Coordinator of the Non-Aligned Movement on Disarmament, we would like to first congratulate you, Ambassador Burhan Gafoor of Singapore, on your election as the chair of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies. We assure you of NAM's full support and cooperation in your stewardship to move us forward, together, towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of conflict and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development.
2. NAM notes the successful conclusion of the Open-ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (2019-2021 OEWG), as the first inclusive mechanism established within the UN with the participation of all Member States, acting on the basis of consensus. NAM also welcomes the consensual adoption of its outcome document. NAM extends its appreciation to the 2019-2021 OEWG Chair, Ambassador Jurg Lauber of Switzerland, for his leadership in this process.
3. Furthermore, NAM strongly supports the OEWG's important role as an inclusive multilateral intergovernmental body to address the subject of security of and in the use of information and communications technologies.
4. NAM recalls the OEWG's mandate contained in the UNGA resolution 75/240 and reiterate the importance of the OEWG's platform and the valuable opportunities it accords all UN Member States to take part in the consultative process on an equal footing.
5. Any proposals and initiatives should be given equal importance and require political will from the entire OEWG membership to arrive at a successful conclusion.



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6. While NAM notes the positive benefits of ICTs and their contribution to development and encourages States to implement the norms, rules and principles for the responsible behavior of States, as this will contribute to increasing stability and security in cyberspace, the Movement is concerned with the cases of illegal and malicious use of new ICTs to the detriment of Members States of the Movement and expresses strong condemnation and rejection to those violations.
7. NAM also expresses its concern regarding the militarization and weaponization of cyberspace through the development of cyber offensive capabilities in a manner that would turn cyberspace into a theater of military operations.
8. NAM stresses the importance of ensuring that the use of ICTs is fully in accordance with the principles of international law and the purposes and principles of the UN Charter especially sovereignty, sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs of States, refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations, settlement of international disputes by peaceful means, and peaceful coexistence among States, which provides a fundamental and essential framework in guiding States in their use of ICTs.
9. NAM has put on record, through its Working Paper which was presented to the 2019-2021 OEWG, positions presented by NAM delegations which are based on the principles and objectives of the Movement. As we continue with our deliberations, it is our hope that substantive inputs contained in the Working Paper will be given due consideration, as they reflect the views of a majority of UN Member States.
10. Recalling the consensus adoption of the 2019-2021 OEWG report, NAM underlines the importance of ensuring 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. NAM hopes that our work will build upon and take into account of the rich discussions contained in the report of the 2019-2021 OEWG.
11. NAM stresses that the development of any international legal framework to address issues related to the use of ICTs with implications on international peace and security should take into account the concerns and interests of all States and be based on consensus and pursued within the UN with the active and equal participation of all States.



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12. The consensus adoption of UNGA resolution 76/19 entitled ‘Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and advancing responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies’ creates a positive momentum to commence this OEWG process in an inclusive and transparent manner. NAM further recognizes the importance role of rendering flexibility and solidarity in achieving a consensus outcome.

13. Finally, please rest assured, Mr. Chair, that NAM will continue its constructive engagement as we strive towards a successful and fruitful OEWG process ahead.

I thank you.