

**CUBA'S CONSIDERATIONS ON THE CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES
AND CAPACITY-BUILDING SECTIONS OF THE SECOND PRE-DRAFT OF THE
REPORT OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP (OEWG) ON
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND
TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.**

Third round of Informal Meetings, November 18, 2020

- We would like to begin again by thanking the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauber, his team, and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for their continued efforts to conduct the work of the group.
- Before addressing the substantive issues, it is our duty to inform you that yesterday, at the beginning of this round of virtual consultations, we were not able to connect to the Webex platform from Cuba, despite all the efforts of the United Nations technicians, the Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Chair's team.
- Tests carried out by a team of technicians from the Ministry of Communications of Cuba, allowed to verify that the limitation occurs when accessing said platform from an IP address corresponding to Cuba.
- This fact is a manifestation of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States against Cuba.

- This kind of unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations has been condemned in the World Summit on the Information Society outcome documents (pp.46 of Geneva Declaration of Principles, and pp.94 of the Tunis Agenda), condemnation that has been ratified every year since then in the UN General Assembly in the annual resolution on the Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the WSIS.
- In order to address you, we have been forced to use a virtual private network, to mask our location to deceive the platform. This, in addition to being an unethical course of action, introduces overloads, so the quality of our connection is very poor, and we often fail to understand what the delegates are expressing.
- The result is that the Cuban delegation finds itself in a disadvantageous situation.
- Therefore, we request that if this situation is not resolved, steps be taken to use another platform that can be accessed by all delegations on an equal footing and without discrimination of any kind.
- Before addressing the sections of the draft report, we would like to make a general remark.
- We reiterate our concern regarding the terms used in the draft report, as we note the lack of clarity in their meaning and individual interpretation by States. For example, the OEWG's own sphere of attention receives several denominations.

- We believe that the OEWG needs to adopt a common terminology by consensus to move the discussion forward. In this regard, we consider that the OEWG should agree on a minimum set of terms necessary for its work and its report.
- Concerning the confidence-building measures section, Cuba endorses, the proposals made by the Non-Aligned Movement in its Working Paper. Taking into account this language, we propose to include additional text in paragraph 47, and the inclusion of a new paragraph 47 bis.
- In paragraph 48, we would like to include the word “relevant” in the third sentence, which would read as follows: “It was suggested that a global directory of Points of Contact would be useful and could take into account the experiences from **relevant** regional bodies in this area”.
- Cuba proposes the inclusion of a new paragraph, the following 51 bis:
“Some States recognized that confidence-building measures are a complementary way to improve cooperation and transparency and reduce the risk of conflict while recognizing the importance of adopting a legally binding instrument that complements existing international law.”
- With regard to the capacity-building section Cuba endorses, once again, the Non-Aligned Movement proposals and propose to include a new paragraph 54 bis, and the additional text in the Process section of paragraph 57.

- Cuba proposes the inclusion of a new paragraph, the following 54 ter:
“To that end, a group of States called upon developed countries and relevant international entities to provide to the developing countries upon their request with assistance and cooperation, including through financial resources, capacity-building, and technology transfer in ICT areas, while taking into account specific needs and particularities of each recipient State, in order to face common threats; reduce the digital divide and decrease the ever-growing technological dependence”.
- We would also propose to add the following text as 54 quat: ***“In this regard, some States reiterate their rejection of unilateral measures that prohibit, restrict or limit the access to ICT and their benefits”*** and 54 quinq: ***“A group of States request that ICT products and services providers refrain from installing backdoors and other hidden functions in their products and services that may compromise the national security of the receiving States”***
- Cuba proposes to include additional text in the Process section of paragraph 57, at the end of the second bullet text, that will read as follows: ***“Capacity-building activities should be evidence-based, politically neutral, transparent, accountable, unconditional, and ensuring that it does not compromise the national security of the receiving States. The provision of assistance and cooperation should be non-discriminatory, made upon request by the recipient State, taking into account its specific needs and particularities”.***
- Cuba proposes in paragraph 58 to include the traditional North – South cooperation. Therefore, the last sentence of paragraph 58 will read as follows: ***“The value of traditional/North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation was also recalled”.***

- In paragraph 59 Cuba proposes to make a small change in the second to last sentence, replacing “***It was also***” with “***Some States***”, so that the beginning of the sentence would read as follows: “***Some States emphasized that national approaches ...***”
- Mr. President, I hope you will take our recommendations into consideration. To conclude, I would like to reiterate that you can count on the constructive collaboration of the Cuban delegation to achieve a successful outcome of the Open-Ended Working Group.