Mr. Chairman,

I will begin by some general comments on the imperative of capacity building and then share with you some specific view on the pre-draft.

**General remarks**

1. Capacity building and capacity development are crucial for any cooperative arrangements in cyberspace, as it is the case in other areas of cooperation. This is especially important when it comes to the gaps among countries. States can exercise a responsible behaviour, realize their rights and accomplish their obligations in the cyberspace if and when required capacities exist. This is promising to see that almost all countries in our Group show readiness towards cooperation on capacity building.

2. This is, however, not realized unless technological, infrastructural and informational needs are met, including through demonopolization and facilitation of access to and transfer of new ICT-related science and technologies. Restrictive measures against other States, including the limiting and blocking ones, in ICT environment and internet pose serious threats to ICTs development, security and trustability and
affects existing capacities and efforts to build and develop the required capacities.

3. Unilateral digital sanctions have been intensifying against some countries with direct negative impacts on their economic growth and development as well as wellbeing of their peoples. The damaging health impacts of these sanctions during covid-19 pandemic has been widely acknowledged including in UN reports.

   These digital sanctions have affected investment in ICT infrastructures as well as access to digital technologies, digital resources such as IPs and DNS system and networks which not only constitute barriers for achieving national ICT-related development goals but also violate human rights.

4. Capacity building is among the limited areas where meaningful cooperation at different levels is emerging rapidly. OEWG should focus on components of a global architecture for capacity building under the auspices of the UN. This should guarantee a balanced, non-discriminatory and demand-driven global cooperative arrangement for ICTs-related capacity building ensuring also security, safety and integrity of ICT supply chains.

5. At regional level, despite a range of schemes with specific components and scope, there are still countries and sub-regions which have been ignored. UN should facilitate and encourage sub-regional and regional schemes with the widest participation of demanding states.

6. While taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, the capacity building and capacity development schemes should be demand-driven and non-discriminatory and need to be responded positively.
Some specific comments on the section F (*Capacity Building*) of the revised pre-draft of the OEWG Report

- In **paragraph 53**, this seems redundant to mention 2030 sustainable development agenda. We are discussing capacity building in the context of security aspect of ICTs where the ultimate goal is to ensure a peaceful, secure, safe and trustable ICT environment.

- In **paragraph 54**, the word “transborder” needs to be clarified. What kind of transborder critical information infrastructure” we are talking about here?

- In **paragraph 56**, where challenges hindering effectiveness of capacity building are mentioned we would like to propose to add the following phrase at the end of the second sentence: “, including limiting and blocking measures against other states.”

- In **paragraph 57**

1. Under principle “**Partnerships**” on page 11 we propose to add one more bullet as follows:

   - “Capacity building schemes and programmes shall not in no way affect national sovereignty of target countries or interfere in their internal affairs.”

2. Under principle “**People**” we propose to add the following sentence as the second bullet:

   - Capacity building shall not disturb states’ national security and interests, social ethics, and public order.

3. We propose to add one more principle as “**Access**” with the following bullets:
“Access”

- Access of all states to ICT-related products, services, equipments, networks, science and technologies should be unrestricted and facilitated.
- All countries are entitled to have access to safe and secure capacity building schemes and products.
- Illegal access to products through implanting backdoors shall be avoided.

- In **paragraph 59**, we propose to add the following sentence after second sentence on 4th line:

  “States also noted that multi-stakeholder approach should not in no way result in diminished role of the states.”

- In **paragraph 60**, we propose to add “, including ITU,” after “UN” in the second line. In the last sentence in the same paragraph, we propose to add “under UN auspices” after “agenda” on the last line.

- **Paragraph 61** needs clarification. “Gender” is addressed under paragraph 57. No need for separate paragraph. There are many issues that can be highlighted as priorities in capacity building. We should avoid this kind of prioritization. Any demanding country will define its own priorities. Moreover, we should also avoid word such as “urge” in our report.

**Mr. Chairman**

These are our initial reflection on the text at this stage.

I appreciate your kind attention.