



General Assembly

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Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

9–13 September 2019, 10–14 February 2020 and
8–12 March 2021

Draft final report

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution [73/27](#), the General Assembly decided to convene, beginning in 2019, an open-ended working group acting on a consensus basis, to continue, as a priority, to further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States, and the ways for their implementation; if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour; to study the possibility of establishing regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations; and to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as confidence-building measures and capacity-building, and to submit a report on the results of the study to the Assembly at its seventy-fifth session, and to provide the possibility of holding, from within voluntary contributions, intersessional consultative meetings with the interested parties, namely business, non-governmental organizations and academia, to share views on the issues within the group's mandate. The Assembly also decided that the group should hold its organizational session in June 2019 in order to agree on the organizational arrangements connected with the group.

2. By its decision 75/550, the General Assembly, noting that, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the third and final substantive session, scheduled for 6 to 10 July 2020, had been cancelled, decided that the Open-ended Working Group, while continuing its work pursuant to its mandate under Assembly resolution [73/27](#), would convene its third and final substantive session from 8 to 12 March 2021.



II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration of the sessions

3. The Working Group held its organizational session on 3 June 2019, its first substantive session from 9 to 13 September 2019, its second substantive session from 10 to 14 February 2020 and its third substantive session from 8 to 12 March 2021, all at Headquarters.

4. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research provided substantive support for the Working Group. The Department for General Assembly and Conference Management provided secretariat services.

B. Attendance

5. Participants in the substantive sessions are listed in documents [A/AC.290/2019/INF/1](#), [A/AC.290/2020/INF/1](#) and [A/AC.290/2021/INF/1](#).

C. Officers

6. At its organizational session, on 3 June 2019, the Working Group elected Juerg Lauber (Switzerland) as Chair by acclamation.

D. Adoption of the agenda

7. At the same session, the Working Group adopted the agenda, as contained in document [A/AC.290/2019/1](#), for all its sessions. The agenda reads as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Organization of work.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Discussions on substantive issues contained in paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution [73/27](#):
 - (a) To further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States listed in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution [73/27](#), and the ways for their implementation, and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour;
 - (b) To study the possibility of establishing regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations;
 - (c) To continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them;
 - (d) How international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States;

- (e) Confidence-building measures;
- (f) Capacity-building and the concepts referred to in paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution [73/27](#).

6. Other matters.

7. Adoption of the final report.

8. Also at the same session, the Working Group decided to conduct its work in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Main Committees of the General Assembly, while acting on a consensus basis in accordance with Assembly resolution [73/27](#). The Group also decided that, in keeping with the rules of procedure and practice of the Assembly, all Member States had the right to be represented in the Group. Non-member States, intergovernmental organizations and entities that had been granted observer status by the Assembly had a standing invitation to participate in the sessions and work of the Group as observers. Relevant entities of the United Nations system would also be invited to participate for technical information purposes only. In addition, relevant non-governmental organizations that were in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in accordance with resolution 1996/31 would inform the secretariat of the Group of their interest in participating in its work. Other interested non-governmental organizations relevant and competent to the scope and purpose of the Group would also inform the secretariat of the Group of their interest, and would accordingly be invited to participate, on a non-objection basis, as observers.

E. Organization of work

9. At the first meeting of each substantive session, on 9 September 2019, 10 February 2020 and 8 March 2021, respectively, the Working Group agreed on its organization of work as contained in documents [A/AC.290/2019/2](#), [A/AC.290/2020/1](#) and [[A/AC.290/2021/1](#)].

F. Documentation

10. A full list of all official documents, working papers, technical papers and other documents before the Working Group can be found at the following dedicated website: www.un.org/disarmament/open-ended-working-group/.

G. Proceedings of the Working Group

11. At its first substantive session, the Working Group considered agenda items 3 to 5 at its nine plenary meetings.

12. At its second substantive session, the Working Group continued to consider agenda item 5 at its nine plenary meetings

13. At its third substantive session, the Working Group considered agenda items 5 to 7 [...].

14. In order to continue its work during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Working Group held four informal virtual meetings, on 15, 17 and 19 June and 2 July 2020; from 29 September to 1 October 2020; from 17 to 19 November 2020; and from 1 to 3 December 2020.

15. The Working Group held an informal intersessional multi-stakeholder consultative meeting from 2 to 4 December 2019. At the request of the Chair of the

Group, the meeting was chaired by the Chief Executive of the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore, David Koh, whose summary of the proceedings was presented and circulated to members of the Group.¹

III. Adoption of the report

16. At the ____ meeting of its third substantive session, on ____ March 2021, the Working Group considered agenda item 7, entitled “Adoption of the report”, and adopted its report as contained in documents A/AC.290/2020/L.1 and A/AC.290/2020/CRP.[...].

¹ Available at www.un.org/disarmament/open-ended-working-group/.