



STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CARIBBEAN
COMMUNITY (CARICOM)

AT THE
INFORMAL OPEN-ENDED CONSULTATIVE MEETING
OF THE
GROUP OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON ADVANCING
RESPONSIBLE STATE BEHAVIOUR IN THE CONTEXT OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Delivered by:

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I have the honour to speak on behalf of the fourteen members of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). CARICOM delegations congratulate you, as Chair of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing responsible State behavior in cyberspace in the context of international security. We express our confidence in you and your abilities and pledge our full support and cooperation in this regard.

CARICOM welcomes the convening of this informal consultations of the Group of Governmental experts as all member states are able to elaborate on the elements and issues that matter most to them and share their views on this important mandate. We further welcome the opportunity to develop norms, rules and to establish structures for capacity building and the transfer of technology that will be required as we all work towards meeting our collective goals as it pertains to ICTs and international security.

Mr. Chair,

As we mentioned in the OEWG this past September, the needs within the CARICOM sub-region are significant. As stated in the CARICOM Cyber Security and Cybercrime action plan there has been alarming growth in cybercrime. Government websites have been hacked and schools have been targeted by criminals online who seek to exploit the youth. According to the Commonwealth, Major cybercrimes reported in the region to date include the theft of over \$100 million from an international bank and individuals claiming to be affiliated with international terrorist organizations have infiltrated government websites and hackers have held citizens and regional institutions ransom. These activities point to the existence of major vulnerabilities in the protection

systems for citizens, possessions and privacy and which extend to critical national infrastructures. The action plan states plainly; Cybercrime could have a devastating impact on national security and if not addressed urgently, could severely hamper the social and economic development of Caribbean States.

Most notably, in the Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community 2015-2019, Cybercrime is listed as an obstacle and threat to social and sustained economic development in CARICOM. Strengthening Cyber Security is seen as a strategy to achieve technological resilience but is also linked to strategies needed to achieve social development and citizen security.

In this regard, CARICOM welcomes this opportunity to contribute as a means to develop a legally-binding framework that can take into account the concerns and perspectives of all states at all levels of consideration of this important issue. We must ensure that the digital divide is narrowed and that effective and accessible international cooperation is a priority of the work of this GGE. We welcome the past GGE reports that have reaffirmed, among other things, that international law, and in particular the UN Charter is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.

Mr. Chair,

CARICOM notes that ICTs have brought unprecedented development to constituents within CARICOM and the entire world. We must ensure that the immense benefits we enjoy are not sullied by malicious and illegal uses of ICTs. We must take advantage of this opportunity to share information on strengths and successes as we tackle the global threat of cyber vulnerabilities.

To conclude, CARICOM is encouraged by the willingness that has been shown by Members States and the Chairs of the GGE and OEWG to ensure that there is complementarity between the processes. We believe that this will be the surest path to developing robust and internationally accepted rules on cyberspace in the context of international security.