

**Statements by Canada during the informal consultative meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security**

5-6 December 2019

**Norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States**

- On norms, Canada believes that the GGE should focus on providing concrete guidance to States on the implementation of previously agreed GGE norms.
- Canada has uploaded to the OEWG portal a document that outlines how we have implemented the 2015 GGE norms. We urge others to consult this submission, and to follow Australia and Canada's lead in sharing such documents, if possible.

**How international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States**

- On international law, Canada strongly supports the 2013 and 2015 GGE reports' conclusions that international law applies on cyberspace. This includes IHL; the ICRC's presentation was informative in this regard. Canada believes that the applicability of international law in cyberspace puts guardrails on states' behaviour in this space.
- The resolution that created the GGE asked GGE member states to provide their views on how international law applies in an Annex. We look forward to seeing these submissions.
- Non-GGE members can outline their views on this issue elsewhere, if they wish to do so. Canada plans on doing this in its annual submission to the UN.

**Confidence-building measures**

- Canada hopes that the GGE will focus on practical measures to apply and implement the voluntary confidence-building measures (CBMs) and transparency measures adopted in the last two consensus GGE reports.
- As we heard yesterday and this morning, regional organizations such as the ARF and OSCE have done excellent work on developing and implementing CBMs.
- Despite this progress, some States and regional organizations have indicated that they face challenges and barriers in the implementation of the CBMs recommended by the 2013 and 2015 GGEs.
- There may be a role for the GGE in providing guidance in this regard by proposing practical measures to disseminate, apply, and implement existing CBMs.
- The GGE report could also examine avenues for cooperation in regional forums and other groupings, with a view to determining the most productive way to advance the development and promotion of CBMs in these forums over the coming years.

- For example, the GGE report could identify 4-5 CBMs from previous GGE reports that could be prioritized for implementation by regional organizations. The GGE report could give concrete guidance and propose practical measures for regional organizations to implement these CBMs.
- To this end, regional organizations such as OAS, OSCE, AU, ASEAN should be proactively included in our work.
- Some of these things could also be done by the OEWG. We would welcome the Chair's views on the optimal division of labour between the GGE and OEWG on the topic of CBMs.

### **Capacity-building**

- With respect to cyber capacity building, Canada believes that the GGE report could help promote cooperation in order to expand and better prioritize capacity building resources.
- To this end, the GGE could offer concrete suggestions and call for greater mobilization of resources to assist States in implementing the recommendations of previous GGE reports.
- This would build on work being done on cyber capacity building in other settings (including the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise) and regional forums.
- Canada may use its capacity building funds to assist countries in enhancing their knowledge of the key elements of the GGE and OEWG reports, and by providing guidance on how they can be implemented.
- It is important to develop more tailored approaches to capacity building for individual nations, which could help them implement OEWG and GGE recommendations.
- There is clearly a useful role to be played by both the OEWG and GGE on these issues. We welcome the Chair's views on how the two groups can best divide their labour on capacity building.