



## **International Workshop on Cyber Security**

**Building norms, rules or principles for cyberspace:  
Promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT  
Environment**

### **Opening Remarks**

Mr. KIM Won-soo

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs



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Assistant Foreign Minister Qian Hongshan,  
Director-General Wang Qun,  
Mr. Long Zhou,

Distinguished delegates,  
Group of Government Experts,  
Ladies and Gentleman,

It is a pleasure to be here, representing the United Nations and the Secretary-General. The Secretary-General concluded his tenth very successful visit to China yesterday.

He has conducted very fruitful meetings with the Chinese Government leaders in Beijing and met the local government leaders and people in Zhejiang and Zhangshu provinces as well as Chinese business and private sector leaders.

Secretary-General Ban has asked me to send his best wishes to you for a successful workshop.

In particular, he would like to convey his appreciation for China's commitment to the issue of cyber security. Co-organizing this important forum to kick-start preparations for the coming Group of Government Experts, or "GGE", is a clear demonstration of that commitment.

The GGE process is at a critical stage. It has the important and urgent task of elevating the normative framework for addressing cyber security.

This workshop is the second joint initiative between United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and China on cyber security. And I hope our partnership continues on this important issue in the coming years.

As the Secretary-General said, "cybersecurity has become a major global challenge, with wide-ranging implications for peace, security, trade and sustainable development".

It is a challenge that affects the entire international community and all aspects of human life.

We must devise ways to tackle the threats that arise from the use of ICTs and the Internet for malicious purposes that are inconsistent with the UN Charter.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Since 2004, the General Assembly has established four successive GGEs to address information security.

The fourth GGE completed its work in 2015. A fifth GGE, as mandated by last year's General Assembly, will start work in late August this year, in a month's time.

Those of you who watch the UN closely might know and think that it is somewhat of an anomaly to hold consecutive GGEs without intermission.

Normally, the issue is brought back after one GGE, to the entire UN membership for their due consideration and discussion. And if necessary, the general membership instructs another GGE to build on its consideration and report back.

But so far the entire membership has yet to take up the issue.

This shows how difficult and sensitive are the remaining issues, including in particular the underlying tension between the two overarching imperatives of privacy and state security.

The last two GGEs have managed to produce consensus outcomes. They reaffirmed two key facts: First, international law should be applicable to cyber space and; second, critical ICT infrastructure needs to be protected for the common benefit of humanity.

This is a good baseline. But the international community needs to move beyond this lowest common denominator. The next GGE needs to step up its efforts to enhance international normative standards for cyber space.

Much of this burden will fall on members of the GGE, many of whom are with us today. The Secretary-General and the UN membership have high expectations for this GGE.

This includes bringing clarity to four critical outstanding questions.

First, what body of international law is applicable in peacetime and conflict?

Second, what ICT infrastructure is to be protected?

Third, how can malicious actors be made more accountable?

And fourth, how can the right balance be struck between the protection of privacy and state security?

The longer these questions remain unanswered, the larger a normative gap grows. It will continue to be exploited by malicious actors.

Ladies and gentlemen

We cannot emphasize too much the centrality of cyber security to the entire international

community.

Yet despite this universal importance, less than twenty percent of the UN membership has been represented so far by the GGE process.

The GGEs have provided a venue for focused discussion, but on an issue as consequential as cyber security it is imperative to be conscious of how to widen the discourse among the general membership.

It is my sincere hope that this GGE will be able to make recommendations on how to make the discourse more inclusive.

This is why I appreciate China's initiative to invite the forthcoming GGE members to come together ahead of the formal GGE session starts. 18 out of 25 countries now on the GGE are represented today either through experts that have been nominated or other representatives. Another two countries which have been on previous GGEs are also represented.

I hope this meeting will help experts devise out-of-the box ideas to break the "business as usual". I hope it can help lay the ground for creative discussions in August.

Few issues will affect us more in the coming years than cyber security. Therefore, in the words of the Secretary-General, "let us intensify our work and move together to build an open, reliable, safe, secure, stable and inclusive Internet, and thereby a peaceful cyberspace."

I wish you all great success in the coming two days. For that, I also count on your wisdom and creativity.

Thank you.