

# **Message of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on the Occasion of the International Workshop on Information and Cyber Security**

By

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Information and communications technologies (ICTs) are woven into the fabric of daily life, no matter who we are or where we are. While all nations appreciate the enormous benefits of ICTs, there is also broad recognition that their misuse for malicious or disruptive purposes poses risks to international peace and security.

We need to anchor ICT security within the existing framework of international law and understandings that govern State relations and provide the foundation for international cooperation to promote a peaceful, secure, open and cooperative ICT environment.

That is why I was particularly pleased to support this initiative and the cooperation between our Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, the Government of the People's Republic of China as well as the China Arms Control Association in this truly international gathering. It is clear that the Member States of the UN attach increasing importance to this issue as demonstrated by the adoption of a number of GA resolutions and the convening of four Groups of Governmental Experts to study various aspects of the issue.

While many countries and regional bodies are already taking positive steps towards measures to improve cooperation on cyber security and build domestic capacity, there is a need to ensure that these are compatible internationally. Institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations, as well as regular dialogue through bilateral, regional and multilateral forums such as this can contribute to these efforts. This timely meeting brings together stakeholders from not just Governments, but also international organizations, research bodies and civil society and recognizes that the internet is clearly a phenomenon that has multi-stakeholders.

As noted in last year's report of the Group of Governmental Experts on this issue, in which many of you or your colleagues participated, confidence-building measures can promote trust and assurance among States. They can also help to reduce the risk of conflict by increasing predictability and reducing misperception and the risks of miscalculation – in this we all have a great common cause.

I wish you a fruitful meeting.