FACT SHEET

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES ON THE USE OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
2019-2021

In December 2018, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted resolutions establishing two intergovernmental processes under the agenda item on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security for the period of 2019-2021.

Open-Ended Working Group
Through resolution 73/27, entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”, the General Assembly established an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) open to all UN Member States. The Group will convene for the first time in 2019 and report back to the General Assembly in 2020 during its 75th session. The mandate of the OEWG also includes the possibility of holding, from within voluntary contributions, intersessional consultative meetings with interested parties, namely business, non-governmental organizations and academia, to share views on the issues within the Group’s mandate.

Group of Governmental Experts
The General Assembly also established a new Group of Governmental Experts by resolution 73/266, entitled “Advancing responsible behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security.” The GGE will also hold its first meeting in 2019 and submit its final report to the General Assembly in 2021 during its 76th session. The group will comprise of 25 members based on equitable geographical distribution. Two of its meetings will take place in Geneva, and another two will be held in New York. As indicated in its mandate, two of the Group’s meetings will be preceded by 2-day informal consultations with all UN Member States. The mandate of the GGE also includes a series of consultations on the subject to be held with regional organizations.

For more detailed information about the Groups’ respective mandates, please refer to resolutions 73/27 and 73/266.
In both of the above-mentioned resolutions, the General Assembly invites all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their national views and assessments on the subject.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs will provide substantive and secretariat support to the Group of Governmental Experts and substantive support to the Open-ended Working Group. More information on the agenda item Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security is provided in the relevant UNODA Factsheet.

For more information: www.un.org/disarmament/ict-security