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Joint Statement of Youth for Privacy and the DMUN Foundation for the Eleventh Session of the Open-Ended Working Group on ICTs

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Chair, thank you for giving me the floor.

This is a joint statement of Youth for Privacy and the DMUN Foundation.

Chair, as we go through the final session of the OEWG ICTs, we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the Chair and all delegations for their commitment to consensus over the past couple of years.

The final report, and the forthcoming permanent mechanism, represent a significant milestone in multilateral cooperation on ICT security. We commend the recognition of cross-cutting issues like capacity-building, inclusivity, and evolving threats, and would like to offer three reflections based on our continued engagement:

1. We demand an open and inclusive future mechanism.

As the Rev. 1 of the draft report highlights, the Working Group “engaged stakeholders in a systematic, sustained and substantive manner.” This model of inclusive dialogue must continue.

With the sustained interest of CSOs throughout the Working Group, the evidence is clear: meaningful progress requires diverse stakeholder voices.



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2. We call for thematic flexibility in the works of the permanent mechanism.

We strongly support the idea that the future mechanism should be “integrated, policy-oriented and cross-cutting.” We also stress that thematic structures must remain adaptable .

For instance, the acknowledgment of how AI and quantum computing may create “new vectors and vulnerabilities” reflects our previous call for responsive, ad-hoc thematic groups that can quickly address emerging risks such as quantum threats to encryption and deepfake-driven misinformation.

3. Youth engagement is never optional. It’s Necessary.

While the final report affirms the importance of women’s participation and the gender digital divide, we note a relative silence regarding the role of youth and children.

As we have previously stated, youth possess relevant lived experience that brings valuable contributions to the Working Group and the permanent mechanism.

We demand that children and youth become systemically embedded into the permanent mechanism's capacity-building pillars. We also applaud certain Member States who have taken valuable initiative in this matter, raising the issue of children and youth participation in the mechanism.

Distinguished colleagues, the consensus we have built here is a foundation, not a ceiling.

The success of the permanent mechanism will rely on its openness, agility, and commitment to inclusive participation.

We look forward to contributing to its implementation and to a safer, freer, and more privacy-respecting digital future.

We thank you.