



**Statement by**

**His Excellency Brian Wallace**

**Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations**

**on behalf of**

**The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

**at an informal consultation of the**

**Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on security of and in the  
use of information and communications technologies**

**(2021-2025)**

**February 11, 2022**

**DRAFT**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The multifaceted nature of our digital world is undeniable. How we treat with the challenges and opportunities presented by the advance of technology, in particular, information and communications technology, is a matter of great interest to CARICOM. For this reason, we are keenly engaging in the discussions and processes underway to address cyber technology in all its dimensions.

In the context of this Open-ended Working Group, CARICOM places great value in the exchange of information, sharing of knowledge and developing of greater understanding of the security of ICTs. For this reason, we are keen to ensure that we build on the progress made through the work of the last OEWG and from the first session of this OEWG.

In this regard, we welcome stakeholder engagement in the process and recall the rich contributions from which we benefitted during the work of the previous OEWG. CARICOM therefore reiterates its view that maintaining the precedent set by that OEWG would be the best course of action in facilitating stakeholder engagement.

Mr. Chairman,

We fully appreciate the extensive efforts you have undertaken to resolve the matter. Our group was able to accept your proposals for modalities on stakeholder engagement as circulated in December and January. We therefore encourage further work, especially amongst concerned parties, to try to resolve the issue in a true spirit of multilateralism. For hope to prevail, we need shows of compromise and flexibility on all sides.

Gridlock would not suit the interests of any of us in the international community because philosophical dithering has but one result: to embolden the perpetrators to exploit the existing gaps with extraordinary potential to target critical systems for the routine functioning of the global economy and of our individual societies. Paralysis therefore, Mr. Chair, cannot and must not be an option, as it is us, the smallest and most vulnerable who would pay the highest price.

CARICOM reiterates that progress on the substantive work before us should remain our main priority. We look forward to the OEWG being able to move ahead with its mandate in the coming session.

Thank you.