



**UNITED NATIONS
OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**African Union's Side-Event on the Margins of the Open-Ended Working
Group on Security of and in the Use of Information and Communications
Technologies**

to mark the adoption of the

Common African Position on the

**Application of International Law to the Use of Information & Communication
Technologies in Cyberspace**

Opening remarks



With a view to satisfying this need, different streams of intergovernmental work are currently ongoing within the UN and simultaneously act as a capacity building activity.

In that regard, let me recall that the Group of Governmental Experts on advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security clearly reminded States that “existing obligations under international law are applicable to States’ ICT-related activity” and that their efforts in relation to cyberspace activities and operations “should be conducted in accordance with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and other international law, with a view to preserving an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.”

Furthermore, the second annual progress report of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies, established by the General Assembly in 2020 by resolution 75/240, noted that “States, reaffirming the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs, and further reaffirming that international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace, security and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, En

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Application of International Law to the Use of Information and Communication Technologies in Cyberspace.

I note that this common position explicitly and unequivocally reaffirms that

