Delegation from the United Arab Emirates
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The issues before the General Assembly of the United Nations are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament, Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. HH Sheikh al Maktoum highlighted that the UAE's efforts to enhance cyber security show "to the world that the more challenges we face, the more determined we are to achieve the highest excellence." Considering the high standards of the UAE concerning cyber-security as a major pillar of international security, the UAE especially hopes to draw attention to this matter.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The United Arab Emirates is alarmed by the strong increase of cyber-attacks launched in 2018, imposing a major threat to international security. Similar to many other states, the UAE registered a strong rise of cyber-attacks launched in 2018. Due to the UAE's technological advancement in becoming a high-tech state, the UAE was the target to more than 274 cyber-attacks in 2018 but could achieve a decrease by 39% compared to 2017. The UAE could accomplish this decrease by tightening its cyber-crime law, introducing their National Cyber Security Strategy (NCSS), and also establishing a Computer Emergency Readiness Team, whose task it is to foil any cyber-attack targeting the UAE. Despite national and regional efforts that have already been made, the Middle East remains the area experiencing the most cyber-attacks in the world. The UAE is convinced that the challenge of cyber security cannot be tackled by individual countries alone but by an international collaboration.

The United Arab Emirates was delighted to participate in the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Group on Cybercrime's fourth meeting in 2018, which was established by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in order to foster international cooperation. The UNODC initiated the Global Program on Cybercrime in 2013 to provide capacity building, prevention, and research, unfortunately mainly for developing countries. As a G77 member, the UAE also took part in the UNODC supported 2018 Workshop on Preventing and Combating Cybercrime, covering topics such as electronic evidence gathering, law enforcement or training of personnel. The UAE welcomes these efforts to give individual states tools to defend themselves against cyber-attacks. However, cyber-crime has been increasing worldwide and international assistance to help states in times of acute cyber-attacks does not sufficiently exist yet.

The United Arab Emirates appreciates the international community's efforts but is also convinced that the establishment of a joint international cyber defense assistance force is indispensable. This Cyber-Crime Prevention Team (CCPT) would consist of international IT specialists, especially from the UAE and other nations advanced in cyber-security, and would assist individual states in times of severe cyber-attacks. Furthermore, it shall provide training programs for national cyber security specialists and advice to enhance a states' cyber defense. It would have its headquarters in a yet to be established office in Dubai as it is becoming one of the most cyber resilient cities in the world. It would be financed by UNODC. Respecting the sovereignty of each UN member state, it shall only assist upon a state's request. If a state requests the assistance of the CCPT, for example if a state's cyber-defense is overstrained due to lacking capacity or if a state's governmental institutions are attacked, it is to the CCPT to assist the state especially in curtailing the cyber-attack, in helping to limit damage and in tracking the offender. In order to further elaborate on the concrete shape of CCPT, an international UNODC led workshop shall take place 2019 in Dubai. Believing that it could be an important tool to maintain international cyber-security, the UAE calls for support of the international community for CCPT.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

The United Arab Emirates acknowledges the efforts of the UN system to constantly reform and its attempts to provide traceability and accountability throughout all its diverse organs, commissions and agencies. As a large donor to several UN institutions, especially in the field of humanitarian aid, it is of major importance to the United Arab Emirates that all UN institutions are accountable to the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), which is not yet the case. This lack in accountability to the JIU could lead to a lack in trust and thus could endanger further collaboration with those institutions not being party to the JIU's statute.

The United Arab Emirates welcomes the establishment of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) in 1994, aiming to assist the Secretary General in his internal oversight responsibilities, providing reports and recommendations. Furthermore, the UAE appreciates that many UN agencies such as the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), UN Women or the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have set up Offices of Internal Audit and Investigations (OIAI). The JIU was founded as the only external oversight body through the General Assembly Resolution 31/192, mandated to conduct evaluations, inspections and investigations. In addition, it publishes reports with the results of its investigations and recommendations and it promotes collaboration. However, all these activities only apply to those UN institutions having adopted its Statute, those being only 28 at the moment.

The UAE for that reason decidedly calls upon all UN organs, agencies, funds and committees to adopt the Statute of the JIU, so that the JIU can thoroughly perform its assistance, supervision and scrutiny throughout the whole UN system. As incentive for the remaining UN entities to join, the UAE suggests to write an open letter, which shall contain the urgent demand and invitation to sign the JIU statute. The letter shall be drafted by the president of the General Assembly María Espinosa, then be brought before all UN member states to sign and then publicly sent to the concerned UN organs. The UAE hopes for the support of every UN member state willing to enhance transparency throughout the whole UN system.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women

The United Arab Emirates is aware that violence against women, especially in the form of human trafficking is still a worldwide problem. As women are the cornerstones of their families and communities, violence against them has serious impacts on society as a whole. Gender equality and the empowerment and protection of women are fundamental principles of the UAE's foreign policy. To tackle the major problem of women and girls being victims of human trafficking, the UAE established several support centers, which provide psychological and legal support for women and girls having experienced human trafficking. To coordinate the UAE's national efforts the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking was founded in 2007. Aside from the UAE's national efforts, human trafficking remains insufficiently combated in too many other countries and 70% of the global victims remain to be women and girls.

The United Arab Emirates values the international Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. Additionally, the UAE highly welcomes the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, which was made possible by a grant from the UAE. Furthermore, the UAE also sponsored the UN Conference on Trafficking in Persons in Vienna in 2008 and the following Global Report on Trafficking Persons. Some women-only centers to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls have already been established, for example in Iraq through a cooperation between the Kurdish General Directorate of Combating Violence against Women (DCVAW) and UN Women. In 2017, UN Women also launched a women-only center in Gaziantep, Turkey, directly supporting refugee women and girls. Nevertheless, unlike the support centers in the UAE, the women-only centers established so far, fail to address the needs of women and girls having experienced human trafficking.

The United Arab Emirates reaffirms its commitment to the prevention of human trafficking of especially women and girls. Therefore, the UAE calls for the support of the international community to establish a worldwide network of Women-Support-Centers to combat the impact of Human Trafficking on women and girls. As also Saudi-Arabia, Oman and Yemen are countries deeply affected by human trafficking, serving as transit states, origin or destination of victims of human trafficking, the first women-support centers shall be established throughout the Arabian Peninsula. UN Women shall organize a working group in order to decide about the precise locations and proper number of the women-support centers. These centers shall provide shelter, psychological, medical and legal assistance and shall facilitate the women's arduous way home. Due to this range of provided services, diverse specialists must be deployed. UN Women shall supervise the establishment of this network and shall also choose the needed professionals. Furthermore, these centers shall be run to a large extent through women for women in order to facilitate trust. This Women for Women Network (W4WN) shall be financed by the UN Trust Fund for Victims of Human Trafficking. The UAE urges the other member states to join in the fight against human trafficking and its impact on women and girls.