Delegation from the Commonwealth of Dominica
Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) 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. The Commonwealth of Dominica is looking forward to working closely together with all Member States to address the above-mentioned topics and find extensive and valuable solutions.

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

The role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament has been a crucial topic of the GA since 1988. In the face of worldwide connection through the Internet, cybersecurity is becoming even more fundamental in order to protect critical infrastructure and human rights. Additionally, every new invention needs to be supervised, like the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV). Therefore, the Commonwealth of Dominica sees the urgent need to implement effective frameworks to utilize the benefits and limit the negative consequences of different forms of technologies.

As one of the foundational documents, the Commonwealth of Dominica highly appreciates the report 45/568 (1990) of the Secretary-General and the most recent resolution of the GA 73/32 (2018). The Commonwealth of Dominica has its own Ministry of Information, Science, Telecommunication and Technology, to provide the best possible control over this emerging issue. With focus on informational technology, the Commonwealth of Dominica welcomes the progress of the GA, specifically highlighting the GA resolution 73/27 (2018). In that context, the Commonwealth of Dominica further recognizes the GA resolution 73/266 (2018) which tries to advance responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security and the efforts done by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). In 2005, the Commonwealth of Dominica has introduced its own information technology strategic plan, to specifically address this topic. Furthermore, to prevent that emerging technologies are weaponized, the Commonwealth of Dominica firmly endorses the 1983 *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons* and the work done by the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the UN Institute of Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). Additionally, the Commonwealth of Dominica promotes the study on armed unmanned aerial vehicles (2015) by the UNODA.

The Commonwealth of Dominica is convinced, that international cooperation is needed to combat the treat of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament. The International Community (IC) should recognize that there need to be further frameworks on international disarmament implemented, so that these technologies will only be used beneficially. Thereby it is important, that all Member States work closely together with the ITU, the UNODA and the UNIDIR. Furthermore, the Commonwealth of Dominica urges the IC to think of a cybersecurity strategy, to protect every human right. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Dominica is dedicated to work towards a framework for UAV, which encourages military innovation but also assures protection of the civilian population. The Commonwealth of Dominica is determined to find fruitful solutions to the topic at hand through cooperation with the other delegations.

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

The UN System is operating on a variety of levels. Besides main UN bodies and Member States, there are subsidiary organs, working groups, peacekeeping missions and organizations cooperating with the UN. In the light of this, mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the UN-System are of uttermost importance. Only if the public is able to obtain information regarding actions and decision-making processes and if every staff member is answerable for their responsibilities, can the UN operate most efficiently and effectively. As the Commonwealth of Dominica is a Member State of the UN, it is highly interested in the implementation of beneficial accountability measures and reaching highest transparency.

The Commonwealth of Dominica believes in the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), which provides as the foundational document the basis for the accountability and transparency measures within the UN. To highlight the importance and necessity of accountability, the Commonwealth of Dominica strongly supports the GA resolution 63/276 (2009) and the Secretary-General report 64/640 (2010).

Furthermore, the Commonwealth of Dominica appreciates all the work done by the Secretary-General, specifically focussing on the UN Secretariat in his reports to the GA, as requested in the GA resolution 72/303 (2018). In addition, the Commonwealth of Dominica welcomes the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* (2003) as an international accountability and transparency measure especially useful to Member States and the *Code of Ethics for the President of the General Assembly* (2016). Moreover, the Commonwealth of Dominica promotes the work done by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), the Independent Audit Advisory Committee (IAAC) and the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU), formulating reports and recommendations to improve accountability and transparency. To better address ethical dilemmas, the Commonwealth of Dominica further supports the guide published by the UN Ethics Office "Putting Ethic to Work: A guide for UN Staff" (2011).

The Commonwealth of Dominica is convinced that there are a lot of effective oversight bodies to work towards full accountability and transparency within the UN System. Nevertheless, there needs to be more transparency even on smaller level within internal management of every UN body. Furthermore, the annual reports of the Secretary General should be evaluated even more and by that, recommendations to specific bodies should be formulated. In addition, it is important that every staff member is aware of the importance of accountability and transparency and looks for help by the UN Ethics Office. Most importantly, all Member States should assist by the application of accountability and transparency measures. The Commonwealth of Dominica looks forward to fruitful discussions about all the delegations' proposals to improve accountability and transparency within the UN System.

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

Violence against women is one of the most widespread violation of human rights and cannot be ignored by the IC. Besides physical and sexual violence, women worldwide face inequality to men in economic, social and cultural structures. Well known obstacles like irregular access to education, trafficking of and within women and girls and gender pay gaps illustrate further forms of violence. These forms of violence not only have an impact on the mental and physical wellbeing of women but also on the economic development, due to the lack of women in the workforce. As violence against women continues to be a very crucial topic also for the Commonwealth of Dominica, it is important to intensify all efforts.

The Commonwealth of Dominica believes in the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) adopted by the GA in 1979. Additionally, the Commonwealth of Dominica highly appreciates the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* (BDPFA) of 1995, as well as the reviews taken place every five years, especially acknowledging its 20-years anniversary in 2015 which was hold by the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Furthermore, the Commonwealth of Dominica takes part in working towards all Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), including SDG 5 which aims to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, through the Bureau of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Social Services, Community Development and Gender Affairs of the Commonwealth of Dominica. These efforts are supported by the non-governmental organisation Dominica National Council of women through providing preventive education and maintaining a shelter where counselling and mediation services are available. The Commonwealth of Dominica further supports the GA resolution 73/148 (2018) on the intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment of women and girls and the GA resolution 67/144 (2013). Moreover, the Commonwealth of Dominica actively appreciates the work done by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in assisting intergovernmental bodies.

To address the violence against women, there are already frameworks available, but the Commonwealth of Dominica sees the urgent need to think of faster methods to assure an effective implementation. All Member States should first of all focus on implementing national legal frameworks and policies to prevent violence against women. For that, they can work closely together with UN-Woman. In addition, the Commonwealth of Dominica promotes the idea of multisectoral responses, which integrate the various services provided by different sectors within a country and governments, especially education, legal support and health care. It is the responsibility of the IC to enable these services through working together on national, regional and international level. To reach this goal, the CSW can be a helpful information provider and financial support could be provided by the United Nations trust fund. The Commonwealth of Dominica invites all member states to join forces in order to effectively prevent all forms of violence against women.