I am pleased to greet the Inaugural Singapore International Cyber Week.

Your event is a significant contribution to the international community’s efforts to build norms, rules and principles for the peaceful use of cyberspace.

Information and communications technologies have brought many benefits to humanity. They have revolutionized industry and communication, and fostered entrepreneurship and innovation. They have been a driver of sustainable development and brought people around the world closer together.

However, as people live more of their lives on-line, we must be mindful of emerging vulnerabilities and those who seek to take advantage of them for malicious purposes. A global dependence on technology also creates the potential for globally destabilizing cyberattacks. Cybersecurity must therefore be a high priority for all.

The theme of Singapore Cyber Week, “Building a secure and resilient digital future through partnership”, underscores the need for robust regional and international cooperation on the ICT environment.
The United Nations, for its part, stands ready to support Singapore and all other Member States to foster an ICT environment that contributes to international peace, security and stability. Working together, we can create the cyber future we want.

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Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to take this opportunity to add my greetings to those of Secretary-General Ban.

My Office, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, is mandated to support the work of the 2016 Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

The Group began its work in August of this year.

In the lead-up to the establishment of this Group, I witnessed exponential growth in the number of countries from every part of the world that are ready to engage in the issue of ICTs.

This highlights the increasing awareness of the importance of this topic for the global community.

The cyber issue is multi-faceted and evolving quickly. Good work is being undertaken in various global and regional forums. The challenge for the international community is how to collaborate effectively.

While there is no easy or quick solution, it is important that global leaders come together in forums such as this one to engage in dialogue and to take the next steps in building cooperation. I would like to thank Singapore once again, and in particular Prime Minister Lee for his personal leadership, in convening this forum to bring together all concerned stakeholders.

I look forward to the presentations and discussions by distinguished leaders and experts from around the world, and I wish you every success for this important cyber week.

I thank you very much.