Italy's statement at the Arria Formula Meeting on
CYBER STABILITY, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Mr President,

thank you for organizing this important and timely meeting. We strongly commend the Estonian
Presidency for this initiative and for the outstanding technical capabilities.
While Italy aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union representative, let me
make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr President,

Cyber attacks by State and non-State actors are on the rise. Essential services are increasingly at
risk of malicious activities. Urgent action is therefore needed to ensure the stability of cyberspace.
Our advice is to look at these challenges in a holistic way, by recognizing that, ultimately, cyber
security cannot be addressed separately from old and emerging threats to world stability and
peace. In this respect, we praise the work carried out by the OEWG on cyber security and by its
chair and we sincerely hope it will be able to conclude its mandate with a positive, significant
outcome.

Mr President,

Italy reaffirms its commitment to be guided in its use of ICTs by existing international law, as well
as through adherence to norms, rules and principles of responsible States behaviour in
cyberspace, as articulated in successive UN GGE reports In this regard, the OEWG should
encourage increased cooperation and transparency to share best practices on how UN GGE norms
are applied, also through regional organizations and institutions, to facilitate raising awareness
and to effectively implement agreed norms of responsible behavior.

By the same token, Confidence Building Measures are vital to build trust. In this respect, let me
underline the crucial role of regional fora in addressing specific local challenges. As a founding
member of the OSCE Italy is committed to the full implementation of its set of CBMS. They can
serve as a model also for other regional organizations.

Mr President

Increasing global resilience is crucial for cyber security. Within the EU, Italy supports a range of
programmes and initiatives to assist countries in developing the capabilities to address cyber
incidents, whether through direct engagement, bilateral contacts or engagement through regional
and multilateral institutions.

In this respect, we are called upon to ensure higher coherence and coordination in the various
capacity building initiatives taking place at the regional, sub-regional and bilateral level, in order to
assist all Member States to perform their functions effectively, efficiently and sustainably. The UN
can play a significant role in this matter, by developing, in agreement with Member States and
regional organizations, a systematic monitoring, reporting and verification system. The UN should
also support regional organizations and Member States in setting up short and long-term goals, as

well as in defining the purpose and principles of the capacity building initiatives. We have to step up our efforts to engage beneficiary States in defining expected outcomes of our collective capacity building effort.

I will conclude, Mr President, by recalling that 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of UNSC Res 1325, women, peace and security. That connection can be found in cyberspace too and – recalling the holistic approach I was mentioning earlier - we should collectively devise strategies to make sure that SDG n. 5 is also pursued with a view to bridging the gender digital divide, to enabling women to be actors of cyber stability and to mitigating the consequences they suffer from malicious activities in cyberspace.

I thank you.