
 21 July 2022

ELAC Intervention

*United Nations Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of
information and communications technologies (OEWG)
Third Substantive Session*

Good afternoon, Mr Chair, and esteemed Delegates,

My name is Talita Dias and today I am speaking on behalf of the [Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict \('ELAC'\)](#). Before anything, we would like to express our deep regret at the veto to our accreditation request to attend the formal meetings of this Third Substantive Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (OEWG). We are a politically neutral academic institution that prides itself on its global membership and engagement. We are also sorry that other stakeholders received objections to their accreditation requests. We believe our contribution to fostering international peace and security in the field of ICTs would be most effective if we were all allowed a seat at the stakeholder table.

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On stakeholder involvement in capacity-building

As an **academic institution** bringing together leading international lawyers, we have spared no effort to build the **legal capacity** of States on the **application of international law to ICTs**. We have

done so primarily by hosting several **expert meetings and workshops** that seek to bring together representatives of States and international organizations, academics, NGOs and civil society in the context of the so-called [Oxford Process on International Law Protections in Cyberspace](#). These discussions have been extremely fruitful, leading to several concrete outputs. The most important among these are our [Five Oxford Statements on International Law Protections in Cyberspace](#). Our [publications](#) also include reports of the discussions held during expert workshops, as well as blog posts, op-eds and articles on discrete topics relating to the application of international law in cyberspace. We have also offered tailored **lectures, seminars, and talks** to representatives of a range of member States. The **results** of our capacity-building work can be seen in references to the Oxford Process and its various Statements in pronouncements and documents issued by States, international organizations, and stakeholders over the past couple of years.

In discussions with member States, we have found it crucial to **listen to their particular needs** and take into account their **distinct views on international law** and its application to ICTs. We not only