Name: Microsoft

Website: <u>www.microsoft.com</u>

Focal Point: Ben Wallis, Director, Technology Policy, <u>bewallisATmicrosoft.com</u>

stronger and more comprehensive commitment from the global community is essential to stand more resolutely against cyberattacks on civilians and the critical infrastructure on which we all depend. Fundamentally, we must advance international norms on two critical fronts:

: If the principles of the Geneva Conventions are to have continued vitality in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the international community must reinforce a clear red line that nation-state efforts that seek to disrupt critical infrastructure providers online are squarely off limits. The Pact should therefore commit all states to not undermining the networks of critical infrastructure providers such as energy, water, food, medical care, etc. States should also commit that they will not permit any persons within their territory or jurisdiction to engage in cybercriminal operations that target critical infrastructure in accordance with existing UN norms.

: Increasingly, nation-states are targeting cloud services to gain access to sensitive data, disrupt critical systems, or propagate disinformation and propaganda in cyberenabled influence operations. Cloud services now play a pivotal role in every aspect of our societies, including delivery of water, food, energy, medical care, information, and other essentials. For these reasons, states should recognize cloud services as critical infrastructure, with protection against attack under international law.

Recognizing and committing to responsible behavior based on established norms and international law is an important first step. However, we must go beyond mere recognition.

We have welcomed the Secretary-; YbYfU $\tilde{W}$  fYW bhUddc]bha YbhcZU < ][ \-Level Advisory Body on AI, and its recommendations will be a vital input to the Summit of the Future.

Beyond education, we must address

to ensure that

technology serves as a positive force for the next generation. These issues are complex and require a holistic and collaborative approach that involves not only the technology industry, but also parents, educators, civil society, governments, and most importantly, youth themselves. Further research and innovation are needed to advance understanding of the effects of technology on youth well-being, and to leverage Al and other technologies to enhance youth protection and empowerment.

Addressing pressing global challenges necessitates collaborative efforts across multiple stakeholders.