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Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Ms. María del Rosario Estrada Girón (Guatemala)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 18 September 2020, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-fifth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 6 October 2020, the First Committee, taking into consideration the physical distancing guidelines and constraints related to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which prevented the Committee from organizing a full-fledged session, decided, on an exceptional basis and without setting a precedent, to convene in-person and virtual meetings and to conduct its work in two phases: the first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 94 to 110, and the second phase would be action on all draft proposals. In the absence of thematic discussions, the Committee also decided to convene three virtual informal meetings of two hours each for interactive dialogues on specific subjects.

3. At its 2nd to 10th meetings, on 9 and 12, from 14 to 16 and on 19 October, the Committee held a general debate, during which draft resolutions and decisions were introduced. On 13, 26 and 30 October, the Committee held virtual meetings for exchanges with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, civil society, and independent experts and other high-level officials nominated by the regional groups. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at its 11th to 15th meetings, on 3, 4, 6, 9 and 10 November.¹

¹ For an account of the Committee’s discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/75/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/75/PV.14](#) and [A/C.1/75/PV.15](#), as well as [A/C.1/75/INF/5](#).



4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Secretary-General on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/75/123).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/75/L.4

5. On 4 October, the delegation of the United States of America, on behalf of Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, submitted a draft resolution entitled “Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security” (A/C.1/75/L.4). Subsequently, Fiji, France, Madagascar, the Marshall Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Turkey, Ukraine and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 14th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/75/L.4 by a recorded vote of 153 to 11, with 9 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d’Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen.

Against:

Burundi, China, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Belarus, Cambodia, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Myanmar, Palau.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#)

7. On 5 October, the delegation of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Belarus, Burundi, Cambodia, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" ([A/C.1/75/L.8](#)). Subsequently, Algeria, Azerbaijan, the Comoros, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Madagascar, Myanmar, Pakistan, Suriname and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

8. At its 14th meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution ([A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#)). The Secretary informed the Committee that a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution had been issued as [A/C.1/75/L.74](#).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on the motion for a separate vote on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#). The representatives of the Russian Federation and Cuba spoke against the motion. The motion for a separate vote on operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#) was adopted by a recorded vote of 57 to 31, with 63 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Against:

Algeria, Angola, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, China, Comoros, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Dominica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Peru, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Abstaining:

Argentina, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bhutan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chad, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan,

Kiribati, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Mexico, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Yemen.

10. Also at the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#), as follows:

(a) The tenth preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 108 to 49, with 11 abstentions. The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States.

Abstaining:

Brazil, Chile, Guatemala, Guyana, Iraq, Mali, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey.

(b) Operative paragraph 1 was retained by a recorded vote of 92 to 52, with 24 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte

² Subsequently, the delegation of Togo informed the Secretariat that it had intended to abstain, and the delegation of Guyana informed the Secretariat that it had intended to vote in favour.

d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Samoa, Sao Tome And Principe, Saudi Arabia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jamaica, Kenya, Libya, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam.

(c) Draft resolution [A/C.1/75/L.8/Rev.1](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 104 to 50, with 20 abstentions (see para. 17, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France,

Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, India, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Switzerland, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago.

C. Consideration of draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.47](#)

11. On 13 October, the delegation of Switzerland submitted a draft decision entitled “Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018” ([A/C.1/75/L.47](#)).

12. At the 14th meeting, on 9 November, the Secretary informed the Committee that a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft decision had been issued as [A/C.1/75/L.76](#).

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.47](#) without a vote (see para. 18, draft decision I).

D. Consideration of draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.60](#)

14. On 14 October, the delegation of Brazil submitted a draft decision entitled “Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/266](#) of 22 December 2018” ([A/C.1/75/L.60](#)).

15. At the 14th meeting, on 9 November, the Secretary informed the Committee that a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft decision had been issued as [A/C.1/75/L.77](#).

16. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.1/75/L.60](#) without a vote (see para. 18, draft decision II).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

17. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

Advancing responsible State behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [53/70](#) of 4 December 1998, [54/49](#) of 1 December 1999, [55/28](#) of 20 November 2000, [56/19](#) of 29 November 2001, [57/53](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/32](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/61](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/45](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/54](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/17](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/37](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/25](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/41](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/24](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/27](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/243](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/28](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/237](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/28](#) of 5 December 2016, [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018, [73/266](#) of 22 December 2018 and [74/28](#) and [74/29](#) of 12 December 2019, as well as its decision [72/512](#) of 4 December 2017,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Affirming that it sees in this progress the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

Noting that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

Confirming that information and communications technologies are dual-use technologies and can be used for both legitimate and malicious purposes,

Stressing that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes and to prevent conflict arising from the use of information and communications technologies,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States, to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

Underscoring the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation among States in combating the criminal misuse of information technologies,

Underlining the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies,

Welcoming the effective work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of

International Security and the 2010,¹ 2013² and 2015³ reports transmitted by the Secretary-General,

Stressing the importance of the assessments and recommendations contained in the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts,

Confirming the conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts, in its 2013 and 2015 reports, that international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment, that voluntary and non-binding norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States in the use of information and communications technologies can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and that, given the unique attributes of such technologies, additional norms can be developed over time,

Confirming also the conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts that voluntary confidence-building measures can promote trust and assurance among States and help to reduce the risk of conflict by increasing predictability and reducing misperception and thereby make an important contribution to addressing the concerns of States over the use of information and communications technologies by States and could be a significant step towards greater international security,

Confirming further the conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts that providing assistance to build capacity in the area of information and communications technology security is also essential for international security, by improving the capacity of States for cooperation and collective action and promoting the use of such technologies for peaceful purposes,

Stressing that, while States have a primary responsibility for maintaining a secure and peaceful information and communications technology environment, effective international cooperation would benefit from identifying mechanisms for the participation, as appropriate, of the private sector, academia and civil society organizations,

Noting the productive, useful and ongoing discussions within the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, which is inclusive of all Member States, and the Group of Governmental Experts, and maintaining that these important processes should conclude before considering next steps,

1. *Calls upon* Member States:

(a) To be guided in their use of information and communications technologies by the 2010, 2013 and 2015 reports of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security;

(b) To support the implementation of cooperative measures, as identified in the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts, to address the threats emerging in this field and ensure an open, interoperable, reliable and secure information and communications technology environment consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Invites* all Member States, taking into account the assessments and recommendations contained in the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts, to

¹ A/65/201.

² A/68/98.

³ A/70/174.

continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(a) Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and promote international cooperation in this field;

(b) The content of the concepts mentioned in the reports of the Group of Governmental Experts;

3. *Welcomes* the productive and ongoing work of the Group of Governmental Experts established by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution [73/266](#), on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, whose mandate is set out in paragraph 3 of that resolution;

4. *Also welcomes* the productive and ongoing work of the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security;

5. *Notes* the interruptions to the meeting schedules of the Group of Governmental Experts and the Open-ended Working Group on account of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;

6. *Decides* that the General Assembly will consider the outcomes of the Group of Governmental Experts and the Open-ended Working Group at the conclusion of those processes, as established in resolutions [73/266](#) and [73/27](#), respectively, and that the Assembly will decide thereafter on any future work, as needed;

7. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

Draft resolution II

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [36/103](#) of 9 December 1981, [43/78 H](#) of 7 December 1988, [53/70](#) of 4 December 1998, [54/49](#) of 1 December 1999, [55/28](#) of 20 November 2000, [56/19](#) of 29 November 2001, [57/53](#) of 22 November 2002, [58/32](#) of 8 December 2003, [59/61](#) of 3 December 2004, [60/45](#) of 8 December 2005, [61/54](#) of 6 December 2006, [62/17](#) of 5 December 2007, [63/37](#) of 2 December 2008, [64/25](#) of 2 December 2009, [65/41](#) of 8 December 2010, [66/24](#) of 2 December 2011, [67/27](#) of 3 December 2012, [68/243](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/28](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/237](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/28](#) of 5 December 2016, [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018 and [74/29](#) of 12 December 2019,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Underscoring the aspirations of the international community to the peaceful use of information and communications technologies for the common good of humankind and to further the sustainable development of all countries, irrespective of their scientific and technological development,

Noting that capacity-building is essential for cooperation of States and confidence-building in the field of information and communications technology security,

Recognizing that some States may require assistance in their efforts to bridge the divide in the security of information and communications technologies and their use,

Noting that providing assistance, upon request, to build capacity in the area of information and communications technology security is essential for international security,

Affirming that capacity-building measures should seek to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes,

Confirming that information and communications technologies are dual-use technologies and can be used for both legitimate and malicious purposes,

Expressing concern that a number of States are developing information and communications technology capabilities for military purposes and that the use of such technologies in future conflicts between States is becoming more likely,

Stressing that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for humankind in cyberspace, and that States also have an interest in preventing conflict arising from the use of such technologies,

Expressing concern that embedding harmful hidden functions in information and communications technologies could be used in ways that would affect the secure and reliable use of such technologies and the information and communications technology supply chain for products and services, erode trust in commerce and damage national security,

Considering that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

Underlining the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies,

Noting that the United Nations should play a leading role in promoting dialogue among Member States to develop common understandings on the security and use of information and communications technologies, as well as in developing common understandings on the application of international law and norms, rules and principles for responsible State behaviour in this sphere, encourage regional efforts, promote confidence-building and transparency measures and support capacity-building and the dissemination of best practices,

Emphasizing the global importance of the negotiation process of the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/27](#),

Noting the truly democratic, inclusive and transparent nature of the discussion within the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security,

Recalling that, in considering the application of international law to State use of information and communications technologies, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, in its 2015 report,¹ identified as of central importance the commitments of States to the following principles of the Charter of the United Nations and other international law: sovereign equality; the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means in such a manner that international peace and security and justice are not endangered; refraining in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other States,

Confirming the conclusions of the Group of Governmental Experts, in its 2013² and 2015 reports, that international law, and in particular the Charter of the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment, that voluntary and non-binding norms, rules and principles of responsible behaviour of States in the use of information and communications technologies can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and that, given the unique attributes of such technologies, additional norms can be developed over time,

Confirming also that State sovereignty and international norms and principles that flow from sovereignty apply to State conduct of information and communications technology-related activities and to their jurisdiction over information and communications technology infrastructure within their territory,

Reaffirming the right and duty of States to combat, within their constitutional prerogatives, the dissemination of false or distorted news, which can be interpreted as interference in the internal affairs of other States or as being harmful to the promotion of peace, cooperation and friendly relations among States and nations,

¹ [A/70/174](#).

² [A/68/98](#).

Recognizing the duty of a State to abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of other States,

Stressing that, while States have a primary responsibility for maintaining a secure and peaceful information and communications technology environment, effective international cooperation would benefit from identifying mechanisms for the participation, as appropriate, of the private sector, academia and civil society organizations,

1. *Decides* to convene, starting from 2021, with a view to ensuring the uninterrupted and continuous nature of the democratic, inclusive and transparent negotiation process on security in the use of information and communications technologies, under the auspices of the United Nations, a new open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, acting on a consensus basis, to continue, as a priority, to further develop the rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States and the ways for their implementation and, if necessary, to introduce changes to them or elaborate additional rules of behaviour; to consider initiatives of States aimed at ensuring security in the use of information and communications technologies; to establish, under the auspices of the United Nations, regular institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States; to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats, and how international law applies to the use of information and communications technologies by States, as well as confidence-building measures and capacity-building; and to submit, for adoption by consensus, annual progress reports and a final report on the results of its work to the General Assembly at its eightieth session;

2. *Also decides* that, upon the conclusion of the work of the current Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session may adopt a decision in this respect;

3. *Further decides* that the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 shall start its activities upon the conclusion of the work of the current Open-ended Working Group and considering its outcomes, and shall hold its organizational session in 2021 in order to agree on the organizational arrangements connected with the group;

4. *Decides* that the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 may decide to establish thematic subgroups, as the Member States deem necessary, with a view to fulfilling its mandate and facilitating the exchange of views among States on specific issues related to its mandate, and may decide to interact, as appropriate, with other interested parties, including businesses, non-governmental organizations and academia;

5. *Also decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

18. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decisions:

Draft decision I
Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018 and [74/29](#) of 12 December 2019, noting that the Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security held its organizational and first and second substantive sessions in 2019 and 2020, and noting also that, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the third and final substantive session, scheduled for 6 to 10 July 2020, was cancelled, decides that the Open-ended Working Group, while continuing its current work pursuant to its mandate under resolution [73/27](#), shall convene its third and final substantive session from 8 to 12 March 2021.

Draft decision II
Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [73/266](#) of 22 December 2018

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions [73/266](#) of 22 December 2018 and [74/28](#) of 12 December 2019, noting that the Secretary-General convened the first and second sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security in 2019 and 2020, and noting with concern that, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the third session of the Group of Governmental Experts, scheduled for 17 to 21 August 2020, could not take place, decides to request the Secretary-General to convene the third session and the fourth and final session of the Group before the end of May 2021.