STATEMENT

by Mr. Victor Vasiliev
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to the First Committee of the 64th session of the UN General Assembly

Presentation of draft resolution L.39 “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international information security”

New York, 21 October, 2009
Dear Mr. Chairman,

A rapid development and universal introduction of advanced information and communication technologies (ICT) is one of the most important characteristics of contemporary world. Permeating all the spheres of human activities the ICT forms a global information environment on which the state of political, defense, economic, socio-cultural and other components of national security, as well as an overall system of international security and stability depends.

The ICT has opened a new non-material space to the world – the virtual one. However, by no means this space proved to be safe, on the contrary, the globalization of information systems embracing territories of a great number of countries has created a completely new situation in the area of challenges and threats in the sphere of information security.

A specific nature of threats to the international information security (IIS) is explained by the fact that in case of an ICT hostile application it will not be the use of weapons in its traditional sense, as basically ICTs are civilian technologies or dual use technologies. Nevertheless, by scale consequences of their hostile application can be comparable to damage from the use of the so called “classic” weapons and even weapons of mass destruction.

One may speak about a “triad” of threats. Not only individual criminals and criminal groupings can apply ICTs, but also terrorist and extremist organizations, as well as States for hostile political, military, economic and other objectives creating threats to security at national, regional and international levels.

Striving to seek a better understanding of threats to IIS and search for collective ways and means to address them, in 1998 Russia initiated the issue on assuring IIS at the international level. Until 2005 the resolution entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international information security” was being adopted at the UN General Assembly on the proposal of Russia by consensus.

On 8 December, 2005 the UN General Assembly at its 60th Session adopted resolution 60/45 that authorized the establishment of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on IIS on the basis of equitable geographical
representation. The GGE mandate foresees to continue research existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible joint efforts to address them. In 2010 after the results of this work the Group will have to prepare a draft Report of the UN General Secretary to the 65th UN GA on the results of the research.

In our view, a common understanding by the international community of IIS urgent problems is the pledge of successful and fruitful work of the UN GGE on IIS in 2009. Currently mankind is in a state of active perception of important and urgent problems of the international information security. In this connection an exchange of opinions and UN best practices on IIS foreseen in the course of the research to be carried by the GGE looks like an extremely important step in the elaboration of measures to insure and support international security and stability.

Russia together with a group of co-authors once again introduces draft resolution entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international information security”, document L.39, for the consideration of the First Committee.

Its text is practically similar to the resolution of the previous year. The only substantial difference is the addition of new operative paragraph 5 which fixes holding of an organizational meeting of the GGE in November, 2009 and three substantial meetings in 2010 in accordance with the time-schedule agreed upon with the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

We call upon all the countries to support the draft resolution proposed by us and join it as co-authors.