STATEMENT

BY

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THE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE OF THE 65TH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

PRESENTATION OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION L.37 "DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY"

New York, 20 October 2010
The problem of maintaining international information security (IIS) has emerged as a result of an unprecedented breakthrough in the development and introduction of information and communication technologies (ICTs) practically in all spheres of day-to-day life.

The specific nature of threats to international stability and security in the IIS area is characterized by the fact that with a hostile, including military, use of ICTs, one can not speak about the use of weapons in traditional meaning since ICTs, basically, are technologies of both civilian and dual use applications. Nevertheless, consequences of ICT hostile applications under conditions of global informatization by their scale can be compared to the damage caused by the use of "classic" weapons and even weapons of mass destruction.

Specific aspects of information and communication means being applied for destructive purposes are explained by their common availability and in many instances—by non-discriminative effect, a possibility of an anonymous application or under disguise of peaceful activities, potential of their wide trans-border applications, low cost and efficiency. ICTs can be used not only by individual delinquents and criminal groupings, but also by terrorist and extremist organizations, as well as States for hostile political, military, economic and other purposes.

There comes into existence a threat of unleashing large-scale information wars—of a confrontation between two or more States in information area with the objective of causing damage to information systems, processes and resources and critically vital structures of States, undermining political, economic and social systems, exercising massive psychological indoctrination of population to destabilize society and State, as well as forcing a State to adopt decisions in the interest of an opposing side etc.

In its desire to facilitate the achievement of a better understanding of IIS threats and search for joint ways to fight them, as far back as in 1998 Russia moved an initiative on rising at the international level of an issue of assuring IIS. All along the decade the UN GA has been adopting the resolution proposed by Russia entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" practically by consensus.
We are thankful for support of our draft resolution at the 64th UN General Assembly session.

This year Russia together with 31 co-authors introduces an updated draft resolution “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. This draft is based on UN GA Resolution 64/25 of 2 December 2009. Mainly it contains editorial improvements to the previous version. The principal new element - the proposal to convene in 2012 the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on IIS to conduct a study on existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures, as well as on relevant international concepts that would be aimed at strengthening the security of global information and communication systems.

It is especially important to maintain the positive impetus gained by the previous group of experts established under the above mentioned Resolution 64/25. As is well known, it managed to assure a very important groundwork, which is for the first time in the UN history to prepare and adopt by consensus a draft report on the problem of assuring information security, which designated specific steps in this direction.

At the United Nations the objective of our cooperative efforts on the IIS strengthening is not to allow an involvement of mankind into another spiral of arms race at a qualitatively new technological level and to save financial and other resources in the interests of development, as well as to stop the ICTs’ use to resolve the tasks which are contrary to the interests of security of States.

We thank all the co-authors of our draft resolution and, taking into account the importance of the subject, call upon all the States which have not yet joined the draft, to consider a possibility of becoming its co-sponsors.

We count on the adoption of the resolution by consensus as it was last year.

We are prepared to continue consultations on the IIS topical theme and expansion of cooperation on all range of the issues of assuring international information security including through UN, as well as other international organizations and fora. We are convinced that it will correspond to the interests of international security and stability as a whole.