Sixty-eighth session
First Committee
Agenda item 94
Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Russian Federation, Serbia, Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Uganda and Ukraine: draft resolution

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

The General Assembly,


Recalling also its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

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 process 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,
Recalling, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

Bearing in mind the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that were made, ¹

Bearing in mind also the results of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003 (first phase) and in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005 (second phase), ²

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,

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,

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

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

Noting the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19, 57/53, 58/32, 59/61, 60/45, 61/54, 62/17, 63/37, 64/25, 65/41, 66/24 and 67/27,

Taking note of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments, ³

Welcoming the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening international meetings of experts in Geneva in August 1999 and April 2008 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as the results of those meetings,

Considering that the assessments of Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meetings of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

Bearing in mind that the Secretary-General, in fulfilment of resolution 66/24, established in 2012, on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, a group of governmental experts, which, in accordance with its mandate, considered existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-building measures in information space, and

¹ See A/51/261, annex.
² A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687.
conducted a study on relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the
security of global information and telecommunications systems,

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 relevant outcome report transmitted by the Secretary-
General,4

Taking note of the assessments and recommendations contained in the report of
the Group of Governmental Experts,

1. Calls upon Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the
consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as
well as possible strategies to address the threats emerging in this field, consistent
with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. Considers that the purpose of such strategies could be served through
further examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the
security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. Invites all Member States, taking into account the assessments and
recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on
Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of
International Security,4 to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views
and assessments on the following questions:

   (a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

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

   (c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

   (d) Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to
       strengthen information security at the global level;

4. Requests the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of
governmental experts, to be established in 2014 on the basis of equitable
geographical distribution, taking into account the assessments and recommendations
contained in the above-mentioned report, to continue to study, with a view to
promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of
information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, including
norms, rules or principles of responsible behaviour of States and confidence-
building measures, the issues of the use of information and communications
technologies in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of information
and communications technologies by States, as well as the concepts referred to in
paragraph 2 above, and to submit to the General Assembly at its seventieth session a
report on the results of the study;

5. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the
item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in
the context of international security”.

4 See A/68/98.