STATEMENT

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(Cluster: Other disarmament measures and international security)

Mr. Chair,

The world is faced with a new – technological challenge to international security in the third millennium. The use of modern information and communication technologies (ICTs) more and more frequently threatens the security of citizens, society and the state while the damage is comparable with the one inflicted by the most destructive weapons. The fact that military, political, terrorist and criminal threats in the information space are pressing is universally acknowledged.

These global threats should be countered on the highest international level. No one can any longer feel safe in the face of global challenges. In the interdependent world of today every voice matters.
We firmly believe that the UN as a universal organization responsible for maintaining international peace and security should continue to play a key role in the debate on international information security. This forum represents the interests of all nations and can produce a truly global consensus on the most urgent challenges in the use of ICTs.

This year in June the UN Group of governmental experts on international information security concluded its work. We see its results as a significant success. Due to the efforts of the Australian Chair, Ms. Deborah Stokes, whose professionalism and patience are admirable, the Group came out with a balanced text. The key achievement is that the report is focused rather on the need to prevent interstate conflicts in information space than on their legitimization. We would also like to thank all the GGE experts whose constructive approach facilitated consensus.

The report of the GGE is one of the achievements of the First Committee. It showed that if there is common understanding on the need to counter threats in information space consensus can be reached even if there are differences in the approaches of the parties.

At this point it is important to maintain the results of the GGE and facilitate further progress in international community building on agreed language in the discussion in the UN and other international platforms.

In this context the Russian Federation presents the draft resolution “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”. It is based on our traditional resolution on international information security which has been adopted by consensus for several years in a row.

We received a lot of constructive commentaries on how it can be updated. Thank you all for the active participation in the discussion. While working on the final draft we pursued to take into consideration all the commentaries we received. Our aim was to elaborate a balanced text rather than to promote the position of a certain country or a group of countries.
We included the passage about the importance of the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of ICTs into the perambulatory part of the resolution. In this respect we proceed from an assumption that the respect for human rights is not set against other important norms of international law and should be observed in a balanced way, along with the principle of national sovereignty and non-interference into the internal affairs of states.

Our draft resolution proposes to convene a new GGE yet in 2014, which would facilitate the continuity of the discussion on the international information security which is now at the top of the international agenda.

The 2013 GGE report acknowledges general application of international law, and in particular the UN Charter, to the activities of States’ in international space and at the same time stresses the need to continue to study how these norms shall apply to the use of ICTs by States. It is also highlights that additional norms can be developed over time. A new GGE could dwell on the political and legal aspects of the international information security.

We propose to expand the GGE mandate so that it embraces the issues of the use of ICTs in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of ICTs by states.

We deem it critically important to build upon the compromise that has already been reached. The language we propose is a word-for-word quotations from the GGE reports of the 2010 and 2013 (pp. 18 and 16 respectively). They have already been approved by all the members of the GGE.

The fact that a lot of countries have already expressed support for our resolution is inspiring. The emerging consensus clearly indicates that international community is fully aware of the scale and gravity of the challenges related to the use of ICTs.

We would like to thank the states that are already listed as cosponsors of our resolution and invite all the rest to join us. Taking into consideration the importance of this draft project, we call on the members of the UN to support and cosponsor it.

Thank you for attention.