



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 91

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

### **Report of the First Committee**

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## **I. Introduction**

1. The item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” was included in the provisional agenda of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 68/243 of 5 December 2014.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2014, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.
3. At its 1st meeting, on 3 October 2014, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 87 to 104. From 7 to 10 and from 13 to 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items (see [A/C.1/69/PV.2-9](#)). On 15 and 16 October, the Committee had an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Committee at previous sessions/presentation of reports (see [A/C.1/69/PV.8](#)) and an exchange with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament (see [A/C.1/69/PV.9](#)). The Committee also held 11 meetings, on 16 and 17, from 20 to 24 and on 27 and 28 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts (see [A/C.1/69/PV.9-19](#)). At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 20th to 24th meetings, from 29 to 31 October and on 3 and 4 November (see [A/C.1/69/PV.20-24](#)).



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/69/112](#) and Add.1).

## **II. Consideration of draft resolution [A/C.1/69/L.26](#)**

5. At the 19th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, China, the Congo, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uganda, the United Arab Emirates, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" ([A/C.1/69/L.26](#)). Subsequently, Argentina, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Lesotho, Malawi, Myanmar, Namibia, Oman, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Thailand and Yemen joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At its 22nd meeting, on 31 October, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/69/L.26](#) without a vote (see para. 7).

### III. Recommendation of the First Committee

7. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

#### **Developments in the field of information and telecommunications 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 and 68/243 of 27 December 2013,

*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,<sup>1</sup>

*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),<sup>2</sup>

*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,

<sup>1</sup> See [A/51/261](#), annex.

<sup>2</sup> See [A/C.2/59/3](#) and [A/60/687](#).

*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 also* 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, 67/27 and 68/243,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,<sup>3</sup>

*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 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,<sup>4</sup>

*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;

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<sup>3</sup> [A/54/213](#), [A/55/140](#) and Corr.1 and Add.1, [A/56/164](#) and Add.1, [A/57/166](#) and Add.1, [A/58/373](#), [A/59/116](#) and Add.1, [A/60/95](#) and Add.1, [A/61/161](#) and Add.1, [A/62/98](#) and Add.1, [A/64/129](#) and Add.1, [A/65/154](#), [A/66/152](#) and Add.1, [A/67/167](#), [A/68/156](#) and Add.1 and [A/69/112](#) and Add.1.

<sup>4</sup> [A/68/98](#).

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,<sup>4</sup> 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 to 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. *Welcomes* the commencement of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts, and authorizes the Group, 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 seventieth session the item entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".