



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 November 2013

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 94

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-eighth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution [67/27](#) of 3 December 2012.
2. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 20 September 2013, 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 2nd meeting, on 4 October 2013, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 89 to 107. From 7 to 11 and on 14 and 16 October, the Committee held a general debate on those items and had an exchange of views with the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs on follow-up to resolutions and decisions adopted at previous sessions (see [A/C.1/68/PV.3-9](#)). The Committee also held 12 meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 30 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament, and with independent experts (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-21](#)). At the 10th to 25th meetings, on 17 and 18, from 21 to 25 and from 28 to 31 October, and on 1, 4 and 5 November, draft resolutions were introduced and considered (see [A/C.1/68/PV.10-25](#)). The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and decisions at the 22nd to 25th meetings, on 31 October and on 1, 4 and 5 November (see [A/C.1/68/PV.22-25](#)).
4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:



(a) Report of the Secretary-General on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security ([A/68/156](#) and Add.1);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security ([A/68/98](#)).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.1/68/L.37

5. At the 21st meeting, on 30 October, the representative of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Argentina, Brazil, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Egypt, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Mali, the Russian Federation, Serbia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Turkmenistan, Uganda and Ukraine, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" ([A/C.1/68/L.37](#)). Subsequently, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Colombia, the Congo, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam and Zimbabwe joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 25th meeting, on 5 November, the Secretary informed the Committee that a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution had been issued as document [A/C.1/68/L.54](#).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution [A/C.1/68/L.37](#) without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

8. 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 and 67/27 of 3 December 2012,

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,

¹ See A/51/261, annex.

² 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](#) 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 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 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 and A/68/156 and Add.1.

⁴ 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,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 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. *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".