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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. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 8 September 2023, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its seventy-eighth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” and to allocate it to the First Committee.

2. At its 1st meeting, on 28 September 2023, the First Committee decided to conduct its work in three phases. The first phase would be a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely items 90 to 106, as well as a general debate on the working methods of the Committee and programme planning, namely items 120 and 135; the second phase would be dedicated to thematic discussions; and the third phase would be for action on all draft proposals.

3. At its 2nd to 9th meetings, from 2 to 6 and from 9 to 11 October, the Committee held its general debate on items 90 to 106. At its 10th meeting, on 12 October, the Committee also held its general debate on items 120 and 135. On 13 October, at its 11th meeting, the Committee held exchanges with the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and other high-level officials in the field of arms control and disarmament nominated by regional groups. The Committee also held 14 meetings (11th to 24th), on 13, from 16 to 20 and from 23 to 26 October, for thematic discussions and panel exchanges with independent experts. At those meetings, as well as during the action phase, draft resolutions and decisions were introduced and considered. The Committee took action on all draft resolutions and



decisions at its 25th to 30th meetings, on 27 October and from 30 October to 3 November.¹

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on a programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security ([A/78/76](#));

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security ([A/78/265](#)).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.11](#)

5. On 30 September, the delegation of the Russian Federation, on behalf of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Burundi, China, Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mali, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" ([A/C.1/78/L.11](#)). Subsequently, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cambodia, the Congo, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 29th meeting, on 2 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.1/78/L.62](#).

7. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.11](#) as follows:

(a) The third preambular paragraph was retained by a recorded vote of 106 to 51, with 9 abstentions. The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho,

¹ For an account of the Committee's discussion of the item, see [A/C.1/78/PV.2](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.3](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.4](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.5](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.6](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.7](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.8](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.9](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.10](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.11](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.12](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.13](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.14](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.15](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.16](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.17](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.18](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.19](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.20](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.21](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.22](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.23](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.24](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.25](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.26](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.27](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.28](#), [A/C.1/78/PV.29](#) and [A/C.1/78/PV.30](#).

² Subsequently, the delegation of the Niger indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bhutan, Chile, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Singapore, South Sudan.

(b) Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.11](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 112 to 52, with 11 abstentions (see para. 14, draft resolution I). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, China, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Albania, Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Marshall Islands, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden,

Switzerland, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America.

Abstaining:

Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Mauritius, Papua New Guinea, Serbia, Singapore, South Sudan, Tonga.

B. Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.60/Rev.1](#)

8. On 23 October, the delegation of France, on behalf of Colombia, France and the United States of America, as well as on behalf of Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malta, Monaco, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, submitted a draft resolution entitled "Programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security" ([A/C.1/78/L.60/Rev.1](#)). Subsequently, Andorra, Angola, Chad, Chile, Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Montenegro, Morocco, Tonga, Tunisia and Türkiye joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

9. At the 29th meeting, on 2 November, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement by the Secretary-General concerning the financial implications of the draft resolution.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee voted on draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.60/Rev.1](#) as follows:

(a) Operative paragraph 4 was retained by a recorded vote of 137 to 11, with 17 abstentions. The voting was as follows:³

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname,

³ Subsequently, the delegation of Namibia indicated that it had intended to abstain, and the delegation of Chad indicated that it had intended to vote in favour.

Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Belarus, Chad, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Nigeria, Pakistan, Singapore, South Africa, Sudan, Togo.

(b) Draft resolution [A/C.1/78/L.60/Rev.1](#), as a whole, was adopted by a recorded vote of 158 to 10, with 12 abstentions (see para. 14, draft resolution II). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Türkiye, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Belarus, Burundi, China, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Mali, Nicaragua, Niger, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic.

Abstaining:

Azerbaijan, Brunei Darussalam, Cuba, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Pakistan, Singapore.

C. Draft decision A/C.1/78/L.13

11. On 2 October, the delegation of Singapore submitted a draft decision entitled “Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/240](#)” ([A/C.1/78/L.13](#)).

12. At the 29th meeting, on 2 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.1/78/L.63](#).

13. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision [A/C.1/78/L.13](#) without a vote (see para. 15).

III. Recommendations of the First Committee

14. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I

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

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [36/103](#) of 9 December 1981, [43/78](#) H of 7 December 1988, [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, [68/243](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/28](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/237](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/28](#) of 5 December 2016, [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018, [74/29](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/240](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/19](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/36](#) of 7 December 2022,

Commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of discussions, under the auspices of the United Nations, on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Stressing that it is in the interest of all States to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes, with the objective of shaping a community of shared future for humankind for peace, security and stability in the information space, and that States also have an interest in the prevention and peaceful settlement of conflicts arising from the use of such technologies,

Confirming that information and communications technologies are dual-use technologies and can be used for both legitimate and malicious purposes,

Expressing concern that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace 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,

Recalling that a number of States are developing information and communications technology capabilities for military purposes and that the use of information and communications technologies in future conflicts between States is becoming more likely,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with Article 2 (4) of the Charter of the United Nations, all States Members of the United Nations shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

Recognizing that the indication that an information and communications technology activity was launched or otherwise originates from the territory or objects of the information and communications technology infrastructure of a State may be insufficient in itself to attribute the activity to that State, and noting that accusations of organizing and implementing wrongful acts brought against States should be substantiated,

Considering the growth and aggregation of data associated with new and emerging technologies, and noting the increasing relevance of data protection and data security and the need to continue to study, with a view to promoting common understandings, existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security, inter alia, data security, and possible cooperative measures to prevent and counter such threats,

Expressing concern about the possibility of embedding harmful hidden functions in information and communications technologies that can be used to undermine the secure and reliable use of such technologies and the information and communications technology supply chain for products and services, erode trust in commerce and damage national security, and reaffirming that reasonable steps to promote openness and ensure the integrity, stability and security of the supply chain can include putting in place at the national level comprehensive, transparent, objective and impartial frameworks and mechanisms for supply chain risk management consistent with a State's international obligations, increased attention in national policy and in dialogue with States and relevant actors at the United Nations and other forums on how to ensure that all States can compete and innovate on an equal footing, and developing and implementing global common rules and standards for supply chain security, and stressing in this regard the necessity of compliance by producers and suppliers of information and communications technology goods and services with the legislation of States on whose territories they operate,

Reaffirming that, in accordance with the principle of non-intervention, States must not intervene directly or indirectly in the internal affairs of another State, including by means of information and communications technologies,

Recognizing the duty of a State to abstain from any defamatory campaign, vilification or hostile propaganda for the purpose of intervening or interfering in the internal affairs of other States,

Recognizing also that the dissemination and use of information and communications technologies affect the interests of the entire global community and that broad international cooperation leads to the most effective universal responses to address information and communications technology threats and promotes an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

Reaffirming that the United Nations should continue to play a leading role in promoting dialogue on the use of information and communications technologies by States,

Underlining the importance for the global community of shaping a system of international information security and continuing a democratic, inclusive, transparent and results-oriented negotiation process within the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, while recognizing its centrality as the mechanism within the United Nations for dialogue on security in the use of information and communications technologies,

Reaffirming that, given the unique attributes of information and communications technologies, additional norms could be developed over time, and noting the need to further consider the development of additional legally binding obligations, taking into account in this regard specific proposals of States on establishing an international legal regime to regulate the information and communications technology field,

Noting that capacity-building is essential for international security, cooperation of States and confidence-building in the field of information and communications technology security and that capacity-building measures should seek to promote the

use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes, and that further focused discussions and decisions within the Open-ended Working Group are needed on funding specifically for capacity-building efforts on security in the use of information and communications technologies, in particular for information and communications technology development of requesting States,

Welcoming the efforts of the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group to forge consensus among States on the common goal of ensuring an open, stable, secure, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

1. *Supports* the work of the Open-ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025 in accordance with its mandate, as enshrined in General Assembly resolution [75/240](#);

2. *Calls upon* States to further engage constructively in the negotiations during formal and intersessional meetings of the Open-ended Working Group, which, pursuant to its mandate, will present recommendations, adopted by consensus, to the General Assembly;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by consensus of the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group,¹ and takes note of the compendium of statements in explanation of position on its adoption;²

4. *Also welcomes* the establishment of the global intergovernmental points of contact directory as the first universal confidence-building measure, and calls upon States to use this instrument in good faith to develop practical cooperation, including through the computer emergency response teams channels, as well as to continue discussing at the Open-ended Working Group possible ways to continuously improve the directory in an incremental and step-by-step manner, as set out in annex A to the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group, inter alia, through communication protocols and required capacity-building measures;

5. *Recommends* that Member States continue discussions at the Open-ended Working Group, in accordance with its mandate, on rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States, including the need to discuss the elaboration of additional legally binding obligations;

6. *Encourages* Member States to continue exchanging views at the Open-ended Working Group on intergovernmental regular institutional dialogue on security in the use of information and communications technologies, with the objective of elaborating a common understanding on the most effective format for future regular institutional dialogue with the broad participation of States under United Nations auspices to be established upon conclusion of the work of the Open-ended Working Group, and confirms that, in considering different proposals on regular institutional dialogue, the views, concerns and interests of all States should be taken into account, and recommends that these proposals be further elaborated within the Open-ended Working Group;

7. *Invites* Member States to share within the Open-ended Working Group their views on capacity-building needs, including for the implementation of practical measures recommended by the Open-ended Working Group, as well as possible inclusive mechanisms to meet them, including funding, taking into account the agreed principles of capacity-building, as set out in annex C to the second annual progress report of the Open-ended Working Group, in particular that capacity-building

¹ See [A/78/265](#).

² [A/AC.292/2023/INF/5](#).

activities should correspond to nationally identified needs and priorities and should be undertaken with full respect for the principle of State sovereignty;

8. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies, in particular on the future regular institutional dialogue on these matters under the auspices of the United Nations, and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report based on those views to the General Assembly during its seventy-eighth session for further discussion between Member States in the meetings of the Open-ended Working Group at its eighth session in 2024;

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

Draft resolution II

Programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [43/78](#) H of 7 December 1988, [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, [68/243](#) of 27 December 2013, [69/28](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/237](#) of 23 December 2015, [71/28](#) of 5 December 2016, [73/27](#) of 5 December 2018, [73/266](#) of 22 December 2018, [74/28](#) and [74/29](#) of 12 December 2019, [75/32](#) of 7 December 2020, [75/240](#) of 31 December 2020, [76/19](#) of 6 December 2021 and [77/37](#) of 7 December 2022,

Noting that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

Expressing concern that information technologies and means of telecommunication can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security, to the detriment of security in both civil and military fields,

Expressing concern also about malicious information and communications technology activities aimed at critical infrastructure and critical information infrastructure facilities supporting essential services to the public,

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

Stressing that it is in the interest of all States to seek the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and to promote the use of information and communications technologies for peaceful purposes and to prevent conflicts arising from the use of information and communications technologies,

Underlining the importance of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in the use of information and communications technologies while bridging digital divides, building resilience in every society and sector and maintaining a human-centric approach,

Calling upon Member States to be guided in their use of information and communications technologies by the assessments and recommendations of the 2010, 2013, 2015 and 2021 groups of governmental experts, as well as those of the 2021 Open-ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, and the first¹ and second² annual progress reports of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, in particular the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies elaborated and adopted by consensus through these processes,

Recalling the conclusion of the groups of governmental experts and the 2021 Open-ended Working Group that international law, and in particular the Charter of

¹ See [A/77/275](#).

² See [A/78/265](#).

the United Nations, is applicable and essential to maintaining peace and stability and promoting an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment,

Reaffirming that voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability, and do not seek to limit or prohibit action that is otherwise consistent with international law but nonetheless to set standards for responsible State behaviour, while also reaffirming that, given the unique attributes of information and communications technologies, additional norms could be developed over time and, separately, noting the possibility of future elaboration of additional binding obligations, if appropriate,

Recalling that confidence-building measures in the field of information and communications technology security can contribute to preventing conflicts, avoiding misperceptions, misunderstandings and the reduction of tensions, and that regional and subregional organizations have made significant efforts in developing confidence-building measures, and welcoming the establishment of a global intergovernmental directory of points of contact as a confidence-building measure,

Supporting the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, underlining the complementarity of the proposal for a programme of action with the work of the current 2021–2025 open-ended working group, and reaffirming that the programme of action is to take into account the consensus outcomes adopted by the 2021–2025 open-ended working group,

Reaffirming that any future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue under the auspices of the United Nations should be an action-oriented process with specific objectives, building on previous outcomes, and be inclusive, transparent, consensus-driven and results-based,

Recognizing the utility of exploring mechanisms dedicated to following up on the implementation of the agreed norms and rules as well as the development of further ones,

Stressing the urgent need to assist States in their efforts to implement the framework for responsible State behaviour and tackle emerging threats in the information and communications technology environment, and, in this context, that capacity-building is essential for cooperation of States and confidence-building in the field of information and communications technology security, and that capacity-building in relation to State use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security should be guided by the principles for capacity-building included in the final report of the 2021 Open-ended Working Group³ and by the first and second annual progress reports of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group,

Underlining that a holistic approach to capacity-building in the context of information and communications technology security is essential and that, in order to bridge the digital divide, sustainable, effective and affordable connectivity solutions, particularly for developing States, are necessary,

Emphasizing the value of further strengthening collaboration, when appropriate, with civil society, the private sector, academia and the technical community, to strengthen security and stability in the information and communications technology environment,

³ See [A/75/816](#).

Underlining the importance of narrowing the “gender digital divide” and of promoting the full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership of women in decision-making processes related to the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security,

Welcoming the consensus recommendations of the second annual progress report of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, including on the common elements for a future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue and its call for States to engage in discussions on the scope, structure and content of the programme of action at the sixth, seventh and eighth substantive sessions of the open-ended working group,

Recalling that the proposed United Nations programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security is conceived as a permanent, inclusive, action-oriented mechanism to discuss existing and potential threats, to support States’ capacities and efforts to implement and advance commitments to be guided by the framework for responsible State behaviour, to discuss and further develop, if appropriate, this framework, to promote engagement and cooperation with relevant stakeholders, and to periodically review the progress made in the implementation of the programme of action as well as the programme’s future work,

Highlighting the conclusions contained in the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/37,⁴ including on the normative framework for responsible State behaviour, underpinned by a universal affirmation of the applicability of international law and a commitment to confidence-building and capacity-building, which represents a significant milestone in international cooperation towards an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful information and communications technology environment and must serve as a baseline for all future multilateral work in this area, highlighting also that inclusive and transparent consideration of proposals for action-oriented mechanisms to advance implementation of the universally endorsed normative framework, and to support State capacities in implementing it, including through capacity-building, is most welcome, and highlighting further that the 2021–2025 open-ended working group should play a key role in further work on the programme of action, including by holding dedicated intersessional meetings in both 2024 and 2025 to ensure that all positions are heard,

1. *Welcomes* the report on the proposal for a United Nations programme of action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of information and communications technologies in the context of international security, prepared by the Secretary-General on the basis of the views expressed by States, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 77/37, including the observations and conclusions of the Secretary-General contained in the report;

2. *Also welcomes* the regional consultations convened by the Office of Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat with relevant regional organizations to share views on the programme of action;

3. *Encourages* States to discuss and provide recommendations on the scope, structure and content of the programme of action, and the modalities for its establishment, through the discussions on regular institutional dialogue at the sixth, seventh and eighth sessions of the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021–2025, as well as dedicated intersessional meetings, including on how the programme of action would:

⁴ A/78/76.

(a) Support States, including through capacity-building, in the implementation of the framework for responsible State behaviour, which includes international law, norms, rules and principles for responsible State behaviour, and confidence-building measures;

(b) Enable discussions on the further development of the framework, including by deepening common understandings on the norms and on how existing international law applies in the use of information and communications technologies, identifying any gaps in those understandings and, if appropriate, considering the need for additional voluntary, non-binding norms or additional legally binding obligations;

(c) Facilitate inclusive dialogue and cooperation, including with relevant stakeholders where appropriate;

4. *Decides* to establish a mechanism under the auspices of the United Nations, upon the conclusion of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group and no later than 2026, that will be permanent, inclusive and action-oriented, with the specific objectives affirmed in General Assembly resolution [77/37](#) and with the common elements for future regular institutional dialogue agreed by consensus in the 2023 annual progress report of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, and also decides that the scope, structure, content and modalities of this mechanism shall be based on consensus outcomes of the 2021–2025 open-ended working group, taking into account the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to resolution [77/37](#), the views submitted by States therein, the regional consultations as well as dialogue with relevant stakeholders;

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

15. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

**Open-ended working group on security of and in the use of
information and communications technologies 2021–2025
established pursuant to General Assembly resolution [75/240](#)**

The General Assembly, recalling its resolutions [75/240](#) of 31 December 2020 and [76/19](#) of 6 December 2021, noting that the open-ended working group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies established pursuant to resolution [75/240](#) held its organizational session and its first substantive session in 2021, its second and third substantive sessions in 2022, and its fourth and fifth substantive sessions in 2023, and recalling that, at its fifth substantive session on 28 July 2023, the open-ended working group considered its second annual progress report, decided to include in its report the outcome of the substantive discussions of the working group as contained in the annex to document [A/78/265](#) and subsequently issued a compendium of statements in explanation of position on the adoption of the second annual progress report as document [A/AC.292/2023/INF/5](#):

(a) Decides to endorse the second annual progress report and convene additional intersessional meetings of up to ten days across 2024 and 2025, to advance discussions, build on the annual progress reports, and support the continued work of the open-ended working group in accordance with its mandate pursuant to resolution [75/240](#), recognizing that States have emphasized that the open-ended working group itself served as a confidence-building measure;

(b) Further decides to request the Secretary-General to implement the functions of directory manager beginning in 2024 as elaborated in Annex A of [A/78/265](#);

(c) Also decides to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-ninth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.