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STATEMENT
BY THE RUSSIAN DELEGATION IN THE FIRST COMMITTEE
OF THE 71ST UN GA SESSION
ON THE ISSUE «OTHER DISARMAMENT MEASURES AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY»

New York, 24 October 2016

Mr. Chairman,

In the third Millennium information and communication technologies (ICTs) have turned into one of the main challenges to global development. ICTs have been used more often for politico-military, criminal and terrorist purposes. The states and private companies and quite often ordinary citizens are becoming a target to computer attacks. The Internet is actively "explored" by terrorists and criminals. The annual damage brought to the world economy by malicious use of ICTs amounts to billions of US dollars.

These facts cause legitimate concern. In fact they directly undermine security and sovereignty of states, create a chain reaction of mistrust and instigate the information arms race.

The prevention of conflicts in the information space and preservation of its security and stability remains the key task of cooperation in the field of international information security (IIS). The unanimity with which the growing number of states supports this idea is a positive trend that, we hope, will determine the conduct of the international discussion on IIS for future years.

Obviously, no country in the world can overcome these problems alone. We are convinced that this task is up to the measure of the United Nation, which has managed to successfully fulfill the role of peacekeeper for more than seventy years.

This year again the Russian Federation has submitted for consideration by the First Committee a draft resolution named "Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security". Preliminarily, we have already distributed it among states for considering. This draft resolution is based on our traditional approaches to ensuring IIS, which have been discussed in the First Committee of the UNGA for the last twenty years.

We would like to express our deep gratitude to all states, which have already co-sponsored the Russian document. There are now practically sixty such countries including those that have joined this initiative as co-sponsors for the first time. This

shows the understanding by the international community of the importance of the IIS issues and the readiness to continue to discuss it in the UN framework.

In August, 2016, in accordance with the Russian resolution, which was adopted by consensus last year and which had 84 co-sponsors, the fifth UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on international information security began its work. Three more meetings of the Group are scheduled for 2016-2017.

We note with satisfaction that the composition of the Group has been expanded to 25 experts, which clearly shows the interest of the increasing number of countries to make their contribution to the international discussion on IIS and to strengthen cooperation in this area. It is important that the GGE includes not only the states, which are one of the key players in field of ICTs, but also the countries, which have only started to develop this area. We look forward to their active participation in the work of the Group.

According to its mandate the new Group continues to study existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them. It will also consider how international law applies to the use of ICTs by the states as well as issues of elaboration of norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior of states, confidence-building measures and capacity building.

We have stepping stone to the effective work of the GGE. The fourth GGE, that completed its work last year, managed to elaborate recommendations that are assessed by many experts as initial norms, rules and principles of responsible behavior of states in the use of ICT. The elaboration of such code of conduct will have a key importance for ensuring IIS since it will give the opportunity to prevent lawlessness in the information space, increase confidence among states, and strengthen international cooperation in this field.

This draft contains mainly technical amendments as compared to the resolution adopted last year. In order to update this document the references regarding the last year resolution and the UNGA resolution on the "Outcome Document of the high-level

meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society" were included in its preamble. A welcoming remark to the beginning of the work of the new GGE has also been added to the operative part of the draft resolution. We believe that this remark emphasizes the importance of convening the Group and the interest of countries in successful completion of its work.

We expect that this year our resolution will be adopted by consensus. We call for all the UN member states to support the Russian document and, if possible, co-sponsor it.

Thank you for your attention.