



**THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**STATEMENT ON OTHER DISARMAMENT
MEASURES AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY**

to the

72nd UNGA First Committee

New York, 23rd October 2017

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The United Kingdom recognises our economic prosperity and social well-being increasingly depend on the openness and security of networks that expand beyond our own borders. We all stand to benefit from a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace and have a shared responsibility and mutual interest in improving our collective cyber security.

The United Kingdom will continue to play a leading role in promoting international stability in cyberspace. We are committed to promoting international stability frameworks for cyberspace based on the application of existing international law, agreed voluntary norms of responsible state behaviour and confidence building measures, supported by coordinated capacity building programmes.

The United Kingdom has provided experts at all five United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts on this topic. We regret the lack of consensus in the 2017 group, but will continue to implement the agreements in the 2010, 2013 and 2015 GGE reports, as endorsed by the UN General Assembly.

The foundation for responsible state behaviour in cyberspace is our mutual commitment to existing international law, including respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the application of international humanitarian law to cyber operations in armed conflict. We reaffirm that the UN Charter applies in its entirety to state actions in cyberspace, including the prohibition of the use of force (Article 2(4)), the peaceful settlement of disputes (Article 33), and the inherent right of states to act in self-defence (Article 51). We reaffirm that the law of state responsibility applies to cyber operations in peacetime, including the availability of the doctrine of countermeasures in response to internationally wrongful acts.

The United Kingdom will promote operationalisation of agreed norms of responsible state behaviour. We will focus on positive practical measures states can take to put these voluntary norms into practice, including international co-operation to deter malicious cyber activity by criminals, state actors and their proxies. We will also continue to support efforts in the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and other regional fora to implement confidence building measures that contribute to transparency and trust between states in cyber space. We will work with partners across all continents to design and deliver tailored capacity building to help states increase their own cyber security.

Realising the potential for development offered through by a free, open, peaceful and secure cyberspace, and mitigating the threats from those who would seek to abuse it, is a task for us all.