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Draft Statement

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on behalf of the LMG

At the First Substantive Session of  
the Open-ended Working Group on  
Security of and in the Use of  
information and telecommunications technologies

New York, 14 December 2021

Mr. Chair,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Syria, Venezuela and my country, Iran. I congratulate your election as the Chair of the Open-ended Working Group on the security of and in the use of information and telecommunications technologies for five years.

This is a process initiated and continuously advocated by this like-minded group and we are happy to see that now this has become the only global, inclusive, transparent, and intergovernmental process aiming at realizing safe and secure cyberspace for all based on its founding resolution 75/240.

For us, one strategic goal in this endeavor is to reject any malicious activity in cyberspace and instead utilizing ICTs only for peaceful purposes. To this end, it is very crucial that we build upon the work of the previous OEWG, and also respect the mandate envisaged for this OEWG in the said resolution and reconfirmed by Resolution 76/19.

A practical way to accomplish the said task is to establish subgroups as envisaged in resolution 75/240 and start a text-based negotiation on the final document as soon as the elaborations on the possible elements of the final document reach a sufficient level of maturity. Fortunately, the final report of the previous OEWG has captured many converging elements while highlighting the ones that we still need to work on them to reach a consensus. We can and should continue exactly from where the previous OEWG finished off.

Given the state-driven nature of the OEWG we believe in some relevant principles such as respecting the sovereignty of states; non-interference in the internal affairs of the states using ICTs; accountability of platforms and transnational corporations; the need for codifying and implementing a legally binding instrument and developing the current international law as well as further norms of responsible state behavior; the non-compulsory designation of repositories; responsible behavior of non-state actors, including digital platforms; to ensure and facilitate the cooperation of the related digital platforms and transnational corporations with the states; application of ICTs for peaceful purposes and rejecting

justification of threat or use of force by means of ICTs; and last but not least, equal status of all national initiatives within the OEWG. We hope these will be guiding principles for this new OEWG. In the same vein, we strongly reject the unilateral coercive measures that prevent the equal access and peaceful use of ICTs for the benefit of economic and social development of the people who suffer from them.

On another organizational matter, we acknowledge the role and contribution of non-governmental stakeholders in supporting states to ensure an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment, and welcome the Chair's conclusion to maintain the precedent of the first OEWG and continue to engage stakeholders in informal consultative meetings.

Lastly, it is a regret to learn that once again the Host Country has not issued visas timely for delegates of some member states. This is clear violation of the Host Country Agreement and goes against the UN principle of the equal footing of the member states as well as the required inclusivity of the OEWG. We urge the Host Country to implement its legal obligation to issue the requested visas in a prompt manner and without any politicized approach. We appreciate all efforts of the related UN authorities to follow up on this issue and hope that the international community's efforts will end in fulfilling the responsibilities of the Host Country at large.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.