STATEMENT

BY HEAD OF THE RUSSIAN INTERAGENCY DELEGATION TO THE FIRST SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF THE UN OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON SECURITY OF AND IN THE USE OF ICTS 2021-2025,

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New York, 30 March 2022
Within thematic discussion on rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of States:

Distinguished Mr. Chair,

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, colleagues,

Further development of rules, norms and principles of responsible behaviour of states in information space is a priority of our joint work, which is clearly stipulated by the OEWG mandate. We did a big amount of work in this dimension within the first Group. We wish to recall that, in accordance with the consensual recommendation of the 2021 OEWG report, we are to continue discussing all the range of state proposals included in the Chair’s summary.

Russia is going to present a detailed written contribution on this subitem. At the same time, now I am willing to share with you the main points of the position of my country in this regard.

In our view, the initial list of international rules of responsible behaviour of states, enshrined in the UNGA resolution 73/27 and including all 11 norms of the 2015 GGE report, is not exhaustive and needs further broadening. While the ICT-sphere remains unregulated on the whole, the existing acquis does not give necessary guidance for the relevant activities of states. The discussion on challenges that we had here confirms this fact.

Specifically, we suggest enhancing the initial list with the following rules.

1) The claims that some ICT-activity is launched or emanates from the territory of a state are not sufficient to attribute such activity to this state. Any accusations against states must be proved and substantiated by undisputable technical facts. The existing rules of behaviour of states cannot serve as a basis for proofless accusations and illegal sanctions, as well as they cannot be used for assessing conformity with some kind of standards which are not internationally agreed.
2) States should not use ICTs, information and communication networks, mass media, as well as transnational media companies, to carry out information campaigns, interfere into internal affairs of other states and undermine their political, economic and social stability.

3) States should counter the use of ICTs for spreading information of terrorist, separatist or extremist nature and information inciting national, racial or religious hatred.

4) States dominating the sphere of information technologies should not use their position to deprive other states of control over ICT-products and services or to create threats to their political, economic and social security.

5) All states should play equal role in the international Internet governance and bear equal responsibility for the Internet governance.

6) States should resolve any dispute which can arise from their ICT-activities by means of peaceful settlement procedures. It is necessary to refrain from the use of military force or threat of force.

We deem important not only to broaden the list of rules of responsible behaviour, but also to work on increasing their status.

The updated list of norms elaborated by the whole international community within the OEWG framework could serve as basis and become the Group’s constructive contribution into the development of a universal international legal act regulating activities of states in the ICT-sphere – a UN convention on ensuring international information security.

This document should guarantee the establishment of the global system in our sphere. It should include main challenges and threats to international peace and security in information space, a system of measures to counter them, based on universally accepted principles and norms of international law, as well as confidence-building measures. The document should provide for the possibility of broad cooperation of parties, exchange of best practices, consultative and technical assistance. As a basis for such, we are ready to present the concept of a relevant convention.

Thank you for your attention.