Resolution 71/28

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security
Kingdom of the Netherlands
2017

The Netherlands warmly welcomes the opportunity to offer its response to Resolution 71/28.

Cyberspace and especially the Internet are a critical resource for economic and societal growth. The increased importance of cyberspace has presented our global community with new challenges. Societies are highly interconnected and dependent on the Internet and ICTs and have become more vulnerable to the misuse of these technologies. Geopolitical tensions manifest themselves in cyberspace and states and other actors are increasingly using cyber operations to pursue their strategic interests. However, these cyberoperations have the potential to cause instability in international relations and could present risks for international peace and security.

The need for international cooperation to reduce these risks is clear. In light of the above, the Netherlands is stepping up its engagement in cyberdiplomacy to maintain peace and stability in cyberspace, promote the international legal order and foster a culture of collaborative security as stated in our International Cyber Strategy ‘building digital bridges’.

Also, the international community is taking steps to address these risks. The reports produced by the United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of ICTs in the Context of International Security are of great importance in this regard. The Netherlands is also grateful for being in the position to contribute to the 2017 GGE.

The Netherlands continues to promote an inclusive dialogue on responsible State behavior in cyberspace, defends human rights online and fosters capacity building through various activities. Various efforts have been undertaken by the Netherlands, of which most notably:
1. In the best tradition of support for the development of the international legal order, the Netherlands organized consultations between State legal advisers on the Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the International Law Applicable to Cyber Operations.

2. Moreover, the Netherlands supported UNIDIR in the organization of a series of three workshops on cybernorms, international law and countering the spread of malicious tools and techniques, successfully bringing together diplomats and the technical community.

3. Lastly, the Netherlands launched numerous initiatives to foster guiding norms, amongst which ‘the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace’, which will develop proposals for norms and policies to enhance international security and stability.

All these efforts aim to make digitized international relations and cyberspace itself more stable and secure. The Netherlands believes that this is essential in order to reduce the risks of conflict and to maintain an open, free and secure cyberspace.