Response to the General Assembly resolution 70/237 on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security"

Finland welcomes the opportunity to inform on General Assembly resolution 70/237 on "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security".

Finland has taken the following efforts at the national level to strengthen overall cyber security and to promote international co-operation in cyber space:

a) The National Cyber Security Strategy of Finland (2013) and its Implementation Programme (2014), consisting of 74 measures, define key national guidelines and actions in strengthening overall cyber security and resilience. Finland aims to secure its vital functions against cyber threats and to ensure that citizens, authorities and business can effectively utilise secure cyber space. Finland has strong experience and a long tradition in close public-private co-operation, also as relates to protection of critical infrastructure.

b) The Cyber Strategy Implementation Programme has been recently reviewed and it is currently being updated through a broad consultative multistakeholder process. Updated Implementation Programme will be finalised this year.

c) Since the adoption of the national Cyber Security Strategy, Finland has established the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC-FI) that is responsible for monitoring cyber security risks and for collecting, processing and communicating information related to cyber security. Public and private sectors have an extensive co-operation network for generating information needed for situational awareness. In addition, the Cybercrime Prevention Centre has been established at the National Bureau of Investigations. An Ambassador for Cyber Affairs has been appointed at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to strengthen Finland’s engagement internationally. National Information Security Strategy was adopted in February 2016.

d) As part of Finnish development policy and cooperation, Finland supports various ICT for development and cyber capacity-building projects. In the past ten years, our total development co-operation funding in this sector is approximately 100 million Euros. Finland is also a founding partner of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) launched in 2015. In April 2016, Finland joined the US led Global Connect Initiative seeking to bring 1.5 billion people, who lack Internet access, online by 2020. Finland aims to join the new World Bank’s Digital Development Partnership Trust Fund.

e) Finland supports internet governance based on multistakeholder model. Finnish stakeholders have actively participated in the work to complete the IANA transition and to improve ICANN’s accountability. Helsinki hosts the 56th public meeting of ICANN in June 2016.
f) Within the OSCE, Finland works towards strengthening trust, security and stability in cyber space. Nationally, Finland implements the non-binding **cyber confidence and security building measures** (CBMs) and will actively engage in future negotiations on further OSCE CBMs.

g) Finland has endorsed the 2015 report of the **UN Group of Governmental Experts** in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

h) Finland has been invited to participate in the work of the 2016 Group of Governmental Experts in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security.

i) Finland has participated actively in the discussions on **international law in cyberspace**, for instance, in consultations on the new and expanded edition of the Tallinn Manual (Tallinn 2.0.) in April 2015 and in February 2016, UNIDIR Workshop on “The Application of International Law in the Context of International Cybersecurity”, 19-21 April in Geneva, Switzerland, and the 8th International Conference on Cyber Conflict on 1-3 June 2016 in Tallinn, Estonia.

j) On 9 February 2016, the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations organised, together with the Compliance and Capacity Skills International (LLC), a panel discussion on “UN Sanctions and Digital Technologies: Threats and Opportunities”.

k) Finland joined the Freedom Online Coalition (FOC) in 2012 and sees it as a good instrument for advancing **human rights online**. Finland has also joined and contributed to the Digital Defenders Partnership (DDP) which supports human rights defenders’ right to freedom of expression in the Internet. In addition, Finland’s Foreign Service has adopted in 2014 national public **Guidelines on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders**. It is a useful tool for the staff of the Foreign Service in co-operation with human rights defenders.

l) **UNESCO** and the Government of Finland co-hosted the main event of the World Press Freedom Day (WPFD) in Finland on 2-4 May 2016. The conference highlighted the importance of **press freedom, freedom of information and safety of journalists**. The participants adopted Finlandia Declaration on access to information and fundamental freedoms. As a side-event to the WPFD conference, a seminar on protecting human rights online was organised by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland and the Freedom Online Coalition.

m) The **National Core Curriculum for Basic Education** (approved in December 2014 by the National Board of Education) emphasises that “all-round competences”, such as multi-literacy, should be integrated in all teaching subjects. Multi-literacy refers to the capacity to interpret, produce and evaluate texts in different kinds of environments, including in the media and cyberspace. Finland supports media literacy (that is part of multi-literacy) e.g. in the following ways:

   a. **The national media literacy campaign week** (MLW) is planned and carried out in cooperation with wide network of Finnish operators (incl. public authorities, NGOs, businesses) and it is translated into educational actions in
local institutions such as schools, libraries, youth centres and day care centres. The aim of the week is to promote the importance of media literacy in order to create a better and safer internet for everyone, especially children and young people. MLW has been arranged annually in February since 2013 and it includes international Safer Internet Day celebrations and promotion.

b. The Finnish Safer Internet Centre (FISIC) is a part of the European Insafe network of 30 national centres, partially funded by the European Commission (EC). FISIC is a national project that aims to enhance the media skills, safety and welfare of children and young people in the internet.

c. The Media Literacy School is a web portal designed for professional educators. The portal contains educational material for teachers, librarians, youth workers, and early childhood educators. Themes such as cyberbullying and respectful online behaviour are covered in various materials and lesson plans.

n) Ministry of Education and Culture has supported a national programme for action against hate speech (2013-2015) in the framework of Council of Europe campaign. The aim of the programme was to raise the awareness about the hate phenomenon and to combat it. The measures are targeted especially towards young people and the specific focus has been on hate speech and bullying in the internet.

o) Finland has been a party to the Budapest Convention since 2007.

p) One of the strategic guidelines of the Finnish Cyber Security Strategy is to make certain that police have sufficient capabilities to prevent, expose and solve cybercrime. In addition, international operational co-operation and exchange of information will be continued and intensified with the EU and with other countries' corresponding law enforcement official, such as the Europol.

q) The new Strategic Police Plan was launched in 2015. A goal of the plan is targeting resources at computerised crime prevention and developing cybersecurity know-how.

r) The new Cybercrime Prevention Centre in the National Bureau of Investigations began operations in April 2015. The Centre is geared towards improvement of police capacity to prevent and investigate serious crimes. In addition to prevention of cybercrimes, the new centre is involved in internet intelligence as well as in conducting treats assessments.

s) The Comprehensive Cybercrime Prevention Plan is done by the National Police Board in close co-operation with local police units, the National Bureau of Investigations and the Ministry of the Interior. The Police University College will offer training programs aimed at improving the skills of investigating and solving cybercrimes. Police have launched a special quality programme which aims to improve analysis of digital evidence in a legally certain manner. Furthermore, the competence of authorities, prosecutors and judges involved in the prevention and investigation of cybercrime is improved by developing the pertinent education of the field.
Following areas could be looked at by the international community to strengthen cyber security at the global level:

a) New United Nations’ Group of Governmental Experts. Finland attaches a lot of importance to the work of the new GGE and is prepared to contribute to its success, including with regard to further identification of norms of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace with a special emphasis on peacetime activities.

b) Further developing regional confidence and security building measures (CBMs) in the framework of the OSCE. Increasing co-operation on CBMs with other regional fora. Finland will continue to actively engage in this work.

c) Continuing support to cyber capacity-building with a view to strengthening resilience and security in cyber space. Finland will engage in international cyber capacity-building.

d) Finland will continue to support and encourage multistakeholder dialogue.

e) Strengthening Public-Private Partnerships nationally and internationally is a priority.