UNGA Resolution 70/237 on «Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security»

The UNGA Resolution 70/237 on the “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security” recalls the importance of science and technology in this context, recognizing that the developments in those areas can have civil and military applications. If the progress in the fields of information and telecommunications means the increasing of opportunities to the development of knowledge, the cooperation among States, the promotion of Human creativity and the circulation of information in the community as a whole, on the other hand we find that those technologies and means can potentially be used in ways contrary to international stability and security, and may negatively affect the national integrity of States.

UNGA Resolution 70/237 requires the contribution of the Member States in what concerns four areas, recalling the experts group report in 2015:

1. General appreciation of the issues of information security;
2. Efforts taken at the national level to strengthen information security and to promote international cooperation in this field;
3. The content of the concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;
4. Possible measures that could be taken by the international community to strengthen information security at the global level.

The report A/68/98 presents some recommendations regarding the following areas: Recommendations on norms, rules, and principles of responsible behavior by States; recommendations on confidence building measures and the exchange of information; recommendations on capacity-building measures.
Following those recommendations, Portugal presents the following comments:

I) Norms, rules and principles that characterize the responsible behavior of States

1. Portugal considers that the security in the network information is important and has been growing.

2. We must highlight the progresses in the efforts to implement legislation on networks’ security and integrity, by adopting risk assessment methods, which demand the adoption of adequate cooperative security measures, at technical and organizational levels, and the requirement of reporting security violations or integrity loss, which have a significant impact on the functioning of services.

3. At the level of concepts it is important to reinforce the idea that regulation should primarily stem from international rules.

4. At international level it is important to reinforce information sharing and the realization of training field exercises in border areas.

II) Measures of confidence reinforcement and information sharing

1. It is crucial to promote information sharing between all the stakeholders (both public and private), taking into account the wider context of globalization.

2. At national level, our efforts have been focused on the accomplishment of joint exercises in which public and private entities took part, in the promotion of technical standardization and in the organization of conferences and seminars, some of them with the participation of international speakers.

III) Measures of capacity building

1. It is important to develop measures on capacity building. Nevertheless, there are difficulties related to the training and maintenance of human resources connected to these activities.

2. There is a need to facilitate the access of knowledge and to promote collective training regarding several aspects, including security, between all the major stakeholders.