Mr. Chairman,

The development of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has brought substantial changes to the agenda of international security. The cases of the use of ICTs for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international peace, security and stability have increased. The information space is more and more frequently being used for undermining national sovereignty and interference into the internal affairs of states.

Therefore, prevention of political and military confrontation in the field of the use of ICTs is particularly urgent.

Strengthening of the international cooperation should become one of the responses to the challenges and threats to international information security (IIS). The United Nations as a global and the most representative organization, responsible for maintaining international peace and stability, should continue to play a leading role in the discussions of the IIS issues.
Last year the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on International Information Security concluded its work. We consider the adoption of its final report by consensus as its apparent success. The report was focused rather on the need to prevent conflicts in information space than on their legitimization. Intense debates in the GGE and its consensus outcome has once again proved that even if there are some differences in approaches among the parties, it is still possible to reach mutually acceptable compromises.

This year the new UN GGE has started its work in accordance with the resolution A/RES/68/243 «Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security», developed by the Russian Federation. We note with regret that not all the experts who made a significant contribution to the work of the previous UN GGE have been able to continue their work in the new Group.

The new GGE has two fundamental differences from the previous one. First, its membership has increased from 15 to 20 experts, who represent various countries and regions. That creates favorable conditions for a wider exchange of views. Second, the Group will hold four instead of three meetings. That will provide more detailed consideration of specific aspects of IIS within the UN.

The mandate of the new GGE has been expanded to the discussion of such issues as the use of ICTs in conflicts and how international law applies to the use of ICTs by States. We expect that the new GGE will be able to develop a common understanding on them, elaborate practical recommendations and set out further steps in this direction.

The Russian Federation is introducing a draft resolution «Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security». It is based on the annual resolution which has been discussing by the First Committee of the UN GA since 1998, and has been adopted by consensus for several years in a row.

We have already received a sufficient number of suggestions regarding the text of the document. While working on the draft we pursued to take into consideration all the commentaries. However, our aim was to preserve the balanced text rather than to promote the position of a certain country or a group of countries.
This year the draft resolution contains mainly technical amendments as compared with the previous one. In addition, a welcome to the start of the new GGE has been included in its operative part. We believe that this remark will emphasize the significance of convening the GGE, as well as the interest of all countries in successful conclusion of its work and adoption of its final report.

We note with satisfaction that the number of co-sponsors of our resolution has increased. It clearly indicates that international community is fully aware of the importance of the IIS issues, and demonstrates serious intention of states to continue the discussion on them within the UN.

We believe that this draft resolution will be adopted by consensus as it used to be. We call on all the UN Member States to support our draft resolution by co-sponsoring it and, for sure, we thank a good number of states that have already done it.