STATEMENT BY
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On the occasion of the seventieth session of the General Assembly, First
Committee,
Thematic Debate on Other Disarmament Measures and International
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Mr. Chairman,

In addition to the statement of the European Union, please allow me to make the following remarks.

Mr. Chairman,

The official Cyber Security Assessment of the Netherlands for 2015 concludes that geopolitical tensions have increasingly manifested themselves in cyberspace over the past year. States and other actors are increasingly using cyber operations to pursue their strategic interests. This increase is of great concern to the Netherlands, as cyber operations have the potential to cause instability in international relations and present risks for international peace and security.

Yet, at the same time the international community is taking steps to address these risks. In this regard, the Netherlands welcomes the latest report of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. The Netherlands calls on all states to adhere to the norms of behavior and legal interpretations that are outlined in this report.

The Netherlands is also proud of the results of the Global Conference on Cyber Space 2015 held in The Hague in April this year. Issues of international peace and security in the cyber domain were one of the main topics of the conference. Through a broad and inclusive process the conference allowed more stakeholders to participate in the debate than ever before. Among other conclusions, the Chair's Statement underlined the importance of international law, including, among others, the law of State responsibility and, in particular, the UN Charter. The Conference also discussed a number of possible norms of responsible State behavior for the protection of national critical infrastructures and critical components of the global Internet, both physical and logical.
After the Global Conference on Cyberspace 2015, the Netherlands will continue to promote the international legal order in cyberspace, and is organizing a great number of activities. For instance, the Netherlands is supporting the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and the Centre for Strategic and International for the organization of a series of advanced workshops on the application of international law, countering the proliferation of malicious cyber tools and techniques, and the stability and security of the global Internet itself. In February 2016 the Netherlands will also organize another consultation meeting on the Tallinn Manual 2.0 on the Applicability of International Law to Cyber Operations. Thirdly, we are in the process of creating a Global Commission on Cyber Stability. This is intended as a multistakeholder platform for discussion on norms between States and other actors, but also on norms for State behavior towards the 'public core' of the global Internet itself, composed of protocols, standards and other critical components.

The Netherlands is of the opinion that these issues are relevant for an increasing number of countries. Therefore, all these projects and events are open to broad and inclusive participation. Lastly, the Netherlands is a candidate for the next Group of Governmental Experts, should it be created.

Mr. Chairman,

All these activities are aimed at reaching shared understandings on key concepts and at increasing international cooperation. The Netherlands believes that such activities are key to reduce the risk of conflict in cyberspace and to maintain a free, open and secure cyberspace that serves the common good of mankind.

I thank you for your attention.