Mr. President,

1. Allow me to congratulate you for the way in which you have conducted the work of this Committee. My delegation associates itself to the statements delivered by Indonesia on behalf of NAM and Uruguay on behalf of UNASUR.

Mr. President,

2. The Fourth Report of the Group of Governmental Experts has revealed that there are broad agreements in the areas of promotion of confidence building measures and capacity building.

3. Also significant, although still incipient, are the agreements reached in the development of norms and laws that could govern cyberspace. In this regard, it is important to highlight the position of the Group (see paragraph 26) regarding the application of International Law in the regulation of cyberspace, with an emphasis on the principles of sovereign equality, solution of international controversies through peaceful means, abstention in the use of force in International relations, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and non intervention in the internal affairs of States.

4. This represents a significant accomplishment, but leaves unfinished the debate on whether we should prohibit weapons and their use or threat of use in cyberspace; or simply control them.

5. The first of these two trends seeks to prohibit the placement of weapons in outer space and a resulting arms race. Its emphasis is in preserving the peaceful status of cyberspace and its potential to contribute to the common good of all humanity.

6. The second of these trends accepts a priori that either it is not possible or the will does not exist to avoid the placement of weapons in cyberspace and therefore the best that we can do is to control their proliferation and mitigate the resulting consequences through confidence building measures. Accepting this tendency would inevitably lead to the expansion
of the industrial military complex to the areas of protection and the use of force in cyberspace. And we know that once colonized by the industry there is no coming back.

7. The Governmental Group of Experts has before it other more technical challenges, but also fundamental ones, such as defining what constitutes a weapon in cyberspace, what type of cyber operation would constitute an act of aggression or a rupture of peace under the parameters of the Charter of the United Nations, and how to attribute responsibility for illegal acts in cyberspace. But none of these challenges are as important as advancing on a recommendation on which of these two larger trends: prohibition or arms control, we must adopt with regards to cyberspace.

Mr. President,

8. According to a recent report of UNIDIR, more than 40 States are developing military cyber capacities, and at least 12 of them for offensive activities in the framework of a potential cyber war.

9. One country, in particular, holds a privileged position in the development of capacities for cyber-attack with a cyber-force of 6200 people spread in 33 teams, related to defense, espionage and attack in cyberspace. We are talking about a full-fledged strategy to add to land, sea and air, an additional space for war.

10. If we take into account that a broad and massive cybernetic attack could disrupt the critical infrastructures of a State, including the production, transmission and distribution of energy, maritime and aerial transportation, banking and financial services, online commerce, the supply of water, food and public health, as well as the defense Systems, causing the collapse of a State with an incalculable human cost, we should be worried about the direction that the debate on the prohibition or militarization of cyberspace takes from now on.

Mr. President.

11. The Governmental Group of Experts faces a daunting task and a very short period of time. The Group is better suited to address those questions, which we have already mentioned before, that are of a more technical nature, but others deserve a broader debate.

12. In its paragraph 18, the Report of the Group of Experts reiterates that given the speed with which ITCs are evolving and the reach of their threat (and I quote) "an institutional dialogue with broad participation must take place with regularity under the auspices of the United Nations and dialogues in bilateral, regional, multilateral and other International organizations".

13. Mr. President, Venezuela calls on the Presidents of all relevant bodies of the United Nations and the Secretary General, to promote such an institutional dialogue and to broaden the understanding and participation of States in that regard.