74ème Session de l’Assemblée générale
Première Commission

Point 93 de l’ordre du jour

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

New York, le 6 novembre 2019

Explication de vote de la Suisse

Mr Chairman,

I am taking the floor to explain our vote on draft resolutions L.50/rev.1 entitled Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security and L.49/rev.1 entitled Advancing Responsible State Behavior in Cyberspace in the Context of International Security.

Switzerland has voted yes on both resolutions.

Our position is informed by the positive developments since the adoption of two competing resolutions on the issue of ICTs in 2018, initiating two distinct processes. We welcome in particular the constructive first substantive session of the Open-ended working group (OEWG). We hope that this trend will prevail throughout the work of the OEWG and the GGE. We are also encouraged by the fact that both resolutions welcome both processes.

Our position is also informed by the fact that Switzerland takes an active part in both the OEWG and the GGE. Via our vote, we would like to underscore the importance that both processes work to ensure coherence and come to a successful outcome.

If we voted positively on both resolutions, we would like nonetheless to underline the following. We are convinced of the importance for this Commission to return to consensus. We regret that such consensus was not possible this year.

We voted yes on draft resolution L.49/rev.1 as this resolution mirrors past resolutions and relies essentially on long-standing consensus language.

If we also voted yes on draft resolution L.50/Rev.1. We believe that this resolution could have benefited from greater support, if not be adopted by consensus, if it had relied more closely on agreed language and faithfully reflected the consensus outcome of past GGEs. We deplore that this was not possible and that corresponding changes were not made, notably with regard to pp10 and pp12. The absence of a reference to the consensus reports of the GGEs of 2013 and 2015, endorsed by consensus by the General Assembly, is to the detriment of this resolution. In particular, we would have liked to see confirmation that the existing body of international law applies to the activities of states in Cyberspace.
The promotion of a strong international legal order in cyberspace is in our view essential for the prevention of conflict, to sustain peace in cyberspace, as well as for stability and accountability.

Going forward, we do hope that we will be able to build on the positive developments that have materialised over the past year and that this Commission will be in a position to return to consensus on the issue of ICT in the context of international peace and security. We will continue to support efforts to this effect, as well as efforts to ensure that both the OEWG and the GGE come to a positive outcome.

I thank you.