Statement by Estonia at the UN General Assembly 74th Session
of the First Committee
Thematic Discussion on Other Disarmament Measures and International Security
29 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Estonia aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union. We would like to make some additional remarks in our national capacity.

Cybersecurity has become an integral part of wider international security context. Increasing interdependence of the rapidly evolving cyberspace is posing a complex challenge that involves the stability of our economies, privacy and human rights.

The United Nations has served as a platform for the international community to address international peace, stability and security in combination with the development and use of the ICTs. A robust normative framework for international cyber stability is established by the General Assembly endorsed reports of the Groups of Governmental Experts and by efforts of regional organisations. In Estonia’s view, already agreed upon norms of responsible state behavior, together with existing international law, regional confidence building measures and capacity building mechanisms, provide the structure we need for a cyber stability framework.

We are also pleased that the joint statement on Advancing Responsible State Behaviour in Cyberspace that was presented during the High Level week of the General Assembly this September, was signed by 28 states.

The Open Ended Working Group provides another opportunity to further advance the global understanding on the framework of international stability in cyberspace. In our view, the two processes should develop in a complementary manner, proceeding from the consensually adopted reports of the previous GGEs. The first session of the OEWG demonstrated the importance of allowing engagements from all relevant stakeholders, including civil society,
academia and private sector to address cyber security issues. A safe and stable cyberspace cannot be achieved without having an inclusive multistakeholder approach.

Mr Chairman,

To conclude, Estonia is determined to contribute to the global efforts to strengthen the international law and rules based order, and to the implementation of existing international law to cyberspace. We would like to stress that we need to expand the global understanding on the framework of international cyber stability and proceed to the implementation of the norms set forward in the 2013 and 2015 GGE reports. Estonia remains committed to promoting open, free, secure, stable and accessible cyberspace for all, where the application of international law, fundamental freedoms and human rights are protected online.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.