STATEMENT BY
the Republic of Slovenia
at the First Committee of the 74th session of the UN General Assembly
New York, 29 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

Slovenia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and I wish to contribute a few further remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

Advances in communication technology have provided us not only with fresh opportunities, but also with new challenges. Addressing them is especially important for democratic societies, which rely on a free and open flow of information.

In Slovenia, we strongly believe in the need for a cyberspace that is both global and secure. In our view, this security should be based on existing international law, including the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety, as well as on international humanitarian law, and international human rights law. We therefore do not see the necessity for a new international body of law on cyber issues, as this may put under question the applicability of the existing international law. We support the implementation of the norms and measures already agreed at the level of the UN General Assembly and regional organisations. We are also in favour of intra-state cooperation in building capacities to address cyber threats.

Slovenia, is engaged in sharing best practices with countries of the Western Balkans. This cooperation includes management of classified data and wider cyber issues. The Slovenian national cyber security incident response centre is engaged in training of computer emergency response teams from the region. Similarly, the Ljubljana-based Centre for European Perspective, which is
development cooperation body of the Slovenian Government, has been running a special program on digital diplomacy for participants from the region for the past four years, with a special focus on disinformation. We believe that this program could serve as a possible model for other regions as well.

Slovenia is also in the process of upgrading its own national crisis response system in the area of cyber security. A new specialized agency is being set up and is scheduled to start with its work at the beginning of next year. In July 2019 Slovenia joined the European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats in Helsinki and is in the process of joining the NATO Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence in Tallinn. We believe that this will provide us with additional know-how and expertise to assist ourselves and others in advancing responsible state behaviour in cyberspace in the context of international security.

Thank you.