



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, 9 NOVEMBER 2020

GENERAL ASSEMBLY, FIRST COMMITTEE

EXPLANATION OF VOTE AFTER THE VOTE ON A/C.1/75/L.8/REV.1 AS ADOPTED

STATEMENT BY GEORG SPARBER, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Chairperson,

I am taking the floor to explain Liechtenstein's vote on the resolution contained in L.8/Rev.1 "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" as adopted. Last year, Liechtenstein has supported this resolution as a contribution to establishing a regular open-ended dialogue on cybersecurity – a priority topic for all States and an area where the United Nations must show leadership. Liechtenstein has been an active participant in the deliberations of the Open-Ended Working Group, expertly chaired by Switzerland, and saw value and, at times progress, in the substantive discussions in that framework. Liechtenstein supported this resolution last year despite concerns with the mandate of the Open-Ended Working Group, its restrictive modalities for civil society and private sector engagement and its strict consensus basis among others.

Broad support and ownership of discussions on cybersecurity at the United Nations is essential for their legitimacy and high levels of participation in the Open-Ended Working Group have been a welcome development in this respect. The present iteration of the resolution, however, constitutes a risk and a step back in this regard. It preempts discussions currently taking place in the Open-Ended Working Group and undermines the potential for concrete results, both now and in the future. Liechtenstein is of the view that the membership has a legitimate expectation that ongoing parallel UN processes in the area of cybersecurity should maintain normative coherence and aim at eventual convergence. Unfortunately, we perceive growing polarization and a risk for further fragmentation, including as a result of the present resolution. Liechtenstein has therefore voted against the resolution.

The international community can unite behind the objective of an open, free, stable and secure cyberspace. The United Nations should lead efforts to strengthen the rule of law online, based on the principle that international law applies in cyberspace, including the Charter of the United Nations, international humanitarian law and international human rights law. It is unfortunate that the institutional set up of United Nations is prone to incoherence and inefficiency and risks preventing the membership from having a targeted discussion on the specific aspects of how to strengthen the application of the law in cyberspace. Liechtenstein expresses its hope for a more unifying approach to this important topic in the future.

Thank you.