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**Contribution by the Russian Federation**

ROLE OF ITU AND ITU MEMBER STATES IN ENSURING TRUST AND SECURITY IN THE INTERNET AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

1. **Introduction**

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, speaking in video format at the 2020 Nobel Prize Forum, noted: “The erosion of the nuclear disarmament regime and the lawless frontiers of cyberspace are just two areas that could produce a full-blown global emergency within the next decade”[[1]](#footnote-1). Despite the fact that the focus of the Secretary General's speech was the COVID-19 pandemic, Antonio Guterres stated that serious problems in the global coordination of efforts of states "go far beyond the response to the pandemic." Ensuring information security in the network is one of the main challenges of the 21st century, and the Secretary General, recognizing this, has put this topic on a par with the problem of nuclear disarmament.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalization of all aspects of the economic and social life of society. Internet connectivity and services have become a critical part of the life of both an individual state and the entire international community. However, there is not open and transparent Internet governance system, resulting in the emergence of national and regional regulatory initiatives that lead to Internet fragmentation.

The Russian Federation has repeatedly expressed concern about the lack of a independent global governance system for management, development and security of the Internet network and critical infrastructure and the dependence of the critical infrastructure on the decisions of one national administration. First, the "digital economy" is impossible without trusting relationships in the information space, and they cannot be ensured without the key approaches to security being agreed based on international law. Second, lack of the necessary international governance leads militarization of the global virtual space and the scale of threats is growing. Internet has already become an arena for cyberattacks, the potential damage from which can become critical for the economies of individual countries.

Given the fact that ITU is a specialized technical agency of the United Nations, it seems appropriate to discuss the role of ITU and Member States in ensuring trust and security in the Internet at the international level and to adopt framework agreements regarding the technical aspects of regulating the security of the critical infrastructure of the global Internet space.

At the same time, the Russian Federation notes the importance of the Tunis Agenda for the information society, which has defined the role of all stakeholders in the Internet governance process, in which, among other things, it is recognized that political powers to address public policy issues related to the national segment of the Internet, and in particular, security, are the sovereign right of states.

1. **Discussion**

At first glance, the Internet is a global, decentralized system, established, developed and operated by various stakeholders with different profiles, priorities and goals, which ensures the sustainable development of the network and the balance of interests. Historically, the Internet governance system has developed as a symbiosis of various international organizations with a very complex structure of responsibilities and interaction with each other, which appears to be a balanced system with effective mechanisms of balances in decision-making.

However, it should be noted that such an assessment and the Internet ecosystem and management systems are examples of a cursory look at the subject. The dependence of the global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names and addresses and critical Internet infrastructure and its technical implementation on the decisions of one national administration seems unacceptable in conditions when the global network is an integral part of the economy, government and everyday life of any country in the world. We emphasize the importance of safe, continuous and stable operating of the Internet and the need to protect the Internet from possible adverse effects and exposure to risks. At the same time, we recognize the need to mobilize the efforts of the international community to prevent the use of the Internet for purposes contrary to the UN Charter.

The social significance of the Internet as a means of practically unlimited access to global information resources requires the development of norms and rules governing the aspects of the operating of the Internet, directly affecting the most important rights and legitimate interests of the individual, society and the state. Discussion of these issues at the international level in ITU will allow developing common approaches based on best practices, taking into account the interests of all stakeholders and will help Member States to specify their own policies, using common approaches that meet the challenges of the times.

1. **Proposal**

The tasks of the CWG-Internet are the identification, study and development of issues related to international public policy in the field of the Internet. ITU Council Resolution 1305 **“Role of the Dedicated Group in identifying Internet-related Public Policy Matters”** defining the public policy issues to be addressed in the CWG-Internet contains the topic “The security, safety, continuity, sustainability, and robustness of the Internet”. Taking in account the importance of this topic for the development of Internet services, we propose to pay special attention to the issue of privacy and security of Internet use and the role of governments in ensuring the security aspects of Internet use.

Russian Federation propose to discuss following questions in the framework of topic "ROLE OF ITU AND ITU MEMBER STATES IN ENSURING TRUST AND SECURITY IN THE INTERNET AT THE INTERNATIONAL LEVEL"

1. Representatives of Member States discuss the status of global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names, addresses, and critical Internet infrastructure at the 17th CWG-Internet meeting;

2. Member States will conduct consultations with all stakeholders at the national level and present at the 16th meeting of the CWG-Internet their views on possible ways to overcome the existing challenges in the Internet governance system related to dependence on the decisions of one national administration.

3. Member States will conduct consultations with all stakeholders at the national level and submit to the 16th meeting of the CWG-Internet proposals for strengthening security measures in the framework of technical regulation of the Internet critical infrastructure.

4. Propose to hold the following open consultations with all stakeholders on the topic “The current status of the global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names and addresses and critical Internet infrastructure and possible ways to overcome the challenges associated with dependence on the decisions of one national administration for further building an independent, democratic and equidistant from all states Internet governance system”.

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1. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-12-11/secretary-generals-video-message-the-nobel-peace-prize-forum> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)