

**ALGERIA**



**الجزائر**

Permanent Mission of Algeria  
to the United Nations  
New York

بعثة الجزائر الدائمة  
لدى الأمم المتحدة  
نيويورك

**Open-Ended Working Group on the Developments in the  
Field of Information and Telecommunication in the Context  
on International Security**

**First Substantive Session**

**Statement of H.E. Mr. Mohammed BESSEDIK,  
Ambassador, Chargé d'Affaires**

New York, 9-13 September 2019

**Check against delivery**

**Mr. Chair,**

First and foremost, allow me, on behalf of the Algerian delegation to congratulate you on your election to conduct the work of this timely Open-Ended Working Group, wishing you every success on this endeavor and assuring you of Algeria's full support and cooperation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered, earlier, by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

**Mr. Chair,**

As we all admit, the world is, literally, witnessing the most important technological revolution never seen before. A clear and realistic shift is occurring in the socio-technological paradigm which is revolutionizing our future.

There is no doubt that ICTs offer increased potential for advancing progress towards economic and social development objectives. The worldwide spread of mobile telephony and communication systems, the growth of Internet networks and widespread use of a broadband infrastructure have a huge impact on international production and trade patterns. Likewise, ICTs are leading the way for the enhancement of several innovative industries as digital economy, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, smart cities and so many other products.

Nevertheless, benefits from new ICTs cannot be taken for granted. It is the case since ICTs pose, a deep and enduring danger if we look at the repeated threats emanating from the use of digital technologies that span a wide spectrum, including the manipulation of information with malicious intent and cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, such as hospitals and electrical grids, which can result in human casualties.

Moreover, the risks of militarization and weaponization of cyberspace through the development of cyber offensive capabilities and the risks to turn cyberspace into a theater of military operations, has become higher and therefore deeply concerning.

**Mr. Chair,**

In light of these growing challenges my delegation would like to touch upon the following points:

My delegation expresses its high satisfaction over the convening of this first substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) established within the UN, that allows the participation of all Member States. This gathering will contribute to develop, on the basis of consensus, rules, norms and principles of responsible behavior of States for the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). It will also define the ways for their implementation; and carry on the ongoing efforts to understand how international law applies in this domain.

In that spirit, Algeria firmly believes in the necessity to develop and lay, under the UN auspices, the foundation of a future legally binding framework, that should take into account the concerns and interests of all States. Such a legal framework, fully dedicated to international cooperation on safeguarding the peaceful uses of ICTs, will undoubtedly constitute a valuable contribution towards assuring and preserving stability and security in cyberspace through the prevention of conflicts.

Furthermore, my country underscores the importance of ensuring the full respect of the purposes and principles of the UN Charter in the use of such technologies, namely, the principles of sovereign equality, non-interference in internal affairs, refraining from the use of force in international relations, respect for human rights, and peaceful coexistence among States.

In this respect, Algeria strongly believes that promoting an effective international cooperation and dialogue in this field as well as developing capacity building of States, especially for developing countries is key to ensure peace and stability in cyberspace, strengthen trust between States and narrow the digital divide.

To us, advancing cyber security capacity building is instrumental to bridge the inequalities in ICT development and thus brings states together on a common understanding of cyberspace governance.

As repeatedly highlighted yesterday, we are, indeed, not starting from the scratch therefore we must take advantage of the progress achieved so far by the previous reports of the GGE in order to efficiently move forward.

**Mr. Chair,**

As far as the creation of this open-ended working group is timely and relevant, allow me to assure you, once more, of Algeria's delegation full support and cooperation. We stand ready to ensure the constructive spirit of this working group and to contribute meaningfully to achieve significant progress.

**I thank you for your kind intention.**