



Republic of Ecuador

Statement of Ambassador Luis Gallegos,  
Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

**Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting  
Cyber Stability, Conflict Prevention and Capacity Building**

22 May 2020

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Mr. President,

1.- Allow me first to congratulate once again Estonia for an outstanding presidency of the Security Council during May 2020, and for delivering on its campaign commitments in an exemplary manner.

2.- I also thank Belgium, Dominican Republic, Indonesia and Kenya for organizing this meeting together with Estonia.

3.- I welcome the substantive presentations made by the UN High Representative for Disarmament Izumi Nakamitsu, the Director for Technology Policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies Dr James Lewis, and Chief Executive of the Cybersecurity Agency of Singapore David Koh.

4.- This year 2020, marks a landmark on cyber not only because of the historical mandate given to an inclusive process such as the Open-Ended Working Group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, but also because the COVID-19 crisis accelerated digital transformation in a way we cannot keep business as usual.

5.- The pandemic did not spare any dimension of peace and security, and cybersecurity is not the exception. The safety of critical services is becoming a major concern.

6.- But that is not the only problem. In this domain, if one Member State is not safe, no Member State is. The threats we face today are, to a greater extent, transnational in nature and the only way to counter them, both in physical and virtual space, is through international cooperation and dialogue.

7.- This is even more relevant in the context of COVID19, that has affected the economies of developing countries and could slow down the global implementation of the cyber stability framework of norms.

8.- While reaffirming its commitment with the existing norms Ecuador believes on the need for a stronger international framework with greater international cooperation to reduce the asymmetries in the capacity to implement the rules for a responsible behavior of the States.

9.- Ecuador further acknowledges the contribution that regional organizations can provide for capacity building and for implementing norms, and the key role that multi stakeholders including the private sector, civil society and academia can play. Ecuador also recall that capacity-building must be gender-sensitive and gender diverse.

Finally, Mr. President,

10- My delegation wishes to insist that no sphere can be left out of the spectrum of international law including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, which does not mean in any way that warfare is acceptable or legitimate.

11.- Indeed, once again, Ecuador rejects the militarization of cyberspace. The UN Charter prohibits the use of force, therefor every international dispute must be settled by peaceful means.

12.- I conclude recalling the need to preserve a responsible and peaceful use of information and communication technologies and to strengthen a culture of cyber-diplomacy, as a key to ensure stability and safety in cyberspace.

I thank you very much.