



MÉXICO
CONSEJO DE SEGURIDAD
DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS
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Misión Permanente de México
ante las Naciones Unidas

STATEMENT OF MEXICO AT THE ARRIA FORMULA MEETING ON CYBER STABILITY, CONFLICT PREVENTION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

New York, 22 May 2020.

Mr. President,

Mexico thanks Estonia, Belgium, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, and Kenya for convening this Arria Formula meeting on “Cyber Stability, Conflict Prevention and Capacity Building”. My delegation attaches great importance to this issue as it is our firm conviction that cyberspace must be preserved for peaceful purposes and to untap its full potential as a catalyzer for sustainable development. And today, we have to promote the use of digital technologies to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic in all of its dimensions.

The rapid changes in cyberspace, the increase in cyber-attacks, the growing interconnection of our daily lives through the internet and the unforeseen consequences that these bring about, merit increased multilateral cooperation. Furthermore, given the magnitude of the transformation that COVID-19 will have in our daily lives, the UN needs to be flexible enough to adapt itself and continue being relevant.

Mexico is a firm supporter of promoting synergies and breaking the silos across the UN system and international organizations. My country actively participates in the major processes dedicated to cyberspace and digital technologies by reaffirming that peace, international law, fundamental freedoms and rights, as well as sustainable development opportunities are mutually reinforcing. And we do so, understanding that each UN, international, and regional forum has a role to play.

Mr. President,

The impact of COVID-19 is a true game-changer and has accelerated the pace at which our daily lives and official interactions have become increasingly dependent on cyberspace. In order to prevent cyber affairs from escalating to a point where the Security Council could be involved, we must be committed to promote an open, reliable, stable, and secure cyber environment. The best preventive effort we can undertake is ensuring that cyberspace does not become a hostile domain and that we take a proactive collaborative approach instead of competitive zero-sum national calculations.

Furthermore, Mexico’s views are based on a comprehensive understanding of peace and international security, anchored in the prevention of disputes in cyberspace, the full respect of international law, the implementation of agreed multilateral norms, international cooperation,

confidence building measures (CMB's), exchange of experiences and good practices, as well as the centrality of capacity building, where the collaboration with relevant stakeholders is fundamental.

Mr. President,

In the regional sphere, Mexico has benefited from the solid collaboration with partners across the American continent, and especially through the Organization of American States. The development and strengthening of CMB's has been central to promote cooperation and stability in cyberspace. Even with the different degrees of development across the continent, we have demonstrated that it is possible to work together and produce common understandings for the benefit of all. It is high time for us to work between regions and even to start transforming regional approaches to universal ones.

In this regard, we call on all Member States to invest in prevention, to collaborate in implementing and making use of all the tools that we already have at our disposal and to help each other through cooperation when and where capacities are still lagging behind. Bridging the digital divide remains a pending task we need to tackle swiftly if we want to keep our promise to leave no one behind.

Thank you.

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