



**Statement by H.E Mr. Kaha Imnadze,  
Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations  
UN Security Council Arria-Formula Meeting:  
Cyber Stability, Conflict Prevention and Capacity Building  
New York, 22 May 2020**

Mr. Chairman,

Cyberspace provides major opportunities for every field of life, science & innovation, economy, individual freedoms and cultural development, but it also gives rise to new threats. We need consistency with the purposes of the UN Charter, because over the past years we've witnessed how ICT was also used for undermining peace and security.

Georgia continues to be committed to developing responsible and ethical cyberspace, including cyber security and resilience, to enable comprehensive frameworks for safe, reliable, trusted digital environment for the benefit of the whole nation.

In last ten years, we established necessary legal base of information and cyber security and identified critical information system subjects; adopted and implemented two cybersecurity strategies with relevant action plans; and preparations are underway for the new national cybersecurity strategy.

Furthermore, as a reliable supporter of the Christchurch Call aimed at fighting the spread of the terrorist and violent extremist content online, we are committed to stop the internet being used as a tool for terrorists.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite our measures to ensure responsible behavior in cyberspace, we have witnessed aggressive application of the hybrid toolkit of the Russian Federation against Georgia's sovereignty.

In 2007 and 2008 Russia unleashed series of massive cyber operations against Estonia and Lithuania. Then in August 2008, during the Russia-Georgia - which was the first direct full scale

military aggression by Russia against its neighboring state, and, in a larger sense, against entire European order – we saw the first precedent of a massive cyber-attack undertaken in parallel to on-going military operations.

If Russia's cyber-attacks then seemed sporadic, now they became a pattern in behavior, and the list, unfortunately, is extensive.

Not so long ago, last year on October 28, a large-scale cyber-attack was launched against websites, servers and other operating systems of the Administration of the President of Georgia, the Courts, municipal assemblies, state bodies, private sector organizations and media outlets. It was intended to harm Georgian citizens and government structures by disrupting and paralyzing the functioning of various organizations.

The investigation conducted by the Georgian authorities, in cooperation with our partners, concluded that this cyber-attack was planned and executed by the Main Division of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

We condemn this cyber-attack, which goes against international norms and principles, infringing on my country's sovereignty in a futile effort to hinder Georgia's democratic development and European and Euro-Atlantic integration.

In conclusion, while reaffirming our commitment to continue strengthening the cyber security at national and international level, we also call on the international community to increase its attention towards malicious ICT activities of the Russian Federation in Georgia and other parts of the world.

I thank you.