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**STATEMENT BY COLOMBIA**  
INFORMAL INTER SESSIONAL MEETING  
OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON DEVELOPMENTS  
IN THE FIELD OF INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY (OEWG)  
(virtual session)

**EXISTING AND POTENTIAL THREATS**

Delivered by  
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New York, June 15, 2020

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Mr. Chairman,

Colombia would like to reiterate its appreciation for your excellent job as Chair of this Working Group. We congratulate your team.

The second pre-draft of the report is a comprehensive document, that summarizes the principal discussions that have been held until now.

It collects the different views and proposals of the States, that are aimed at contributing to the definition of strategies and actions for responsible use of cyberspace, based on the framework recommended by the Group of Governmental Experts reports and agreed by consensus by the General Assembly.

It promotes the appropriate conditions for the digital coexistence and contributes to international peace and security.

Regarding the topic of existing and potential threats, we consider fundamental to address digital security risks, considering the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which should be the base of the responsible State behavior.

In relation to the question whether the current global situation has revealed additional or amplified existing threats, we observed that the accelerated virtualization of the

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different fields of daily life has unfortunately been accompanied by a significant increase of malicious uses of the ICTs, such as cybercrimes and cyber-attacks against critical infrastructures and essential services. Likewise, misinformation and the hate messages have intensified.

The ICTs are a wonderful tool for the progress of the humanity, but their malicious use can also represent a hazard to social coexistence and to international peace and security.

More than ever, it is essential to continue strengthening capacities for the identification and effective protection of critical infrastructures like medical services, which have been particularly affected during this pandemic.

Joint efforts are required for the appropriate prompt disclosure of information, including the responsible exchange of information on vulnerabilities.

Mr. Chairman,

Since 2011, in Colombia we have been developing cybersecurity public policies, aimed to guarantee a free, open, neutral, and secure digital environment, through the establishment of an institutional framework.

These guidelines have focused on risk management in the digital environment, the protection of critical national infrastructures, as well as the reinforcement of human, technical, technological, and physical capacity building.

In order to tackle vulnerabilities of fundamental transnational infrastructures, strategies are also being articulated facilitating cross-border cooperation through the exchange of timely and streamlined information for the investigations. It is also important to build capacities for investigative and judicial authorities, and count with the support from the private communications providers.

Mr. Chairman,

We consider pertinent to analyze the possibility of establishing international cooperation mechanisms for the study of risks and capacity building. Also, to generate campaigns that highlight the relevance of the correct use of the ICTs, prevent and mitigate risks, and promote resilience.

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The cooperation cannot be only understood as the transfer of knowledge, technologies and best practices, but also as joint and coordinated actions among States, multiple stakeholders and regional organizations.

Finally, we want to reiterate that the lack of digital security governance frameworks represents a risk. The significant increase of cyber-incidents during this confinement measures, made vulnerabilities more evident. This underscores the urgent need to collectively address the threats generated by its malicious use.

It is our responsibility to maintain an open, secure, reliable internet, with universal and peaceful access.

Our goal is to contribute to the achievement of the purposes of the United Nations.

Thank you.