Delegation from the Russian Federation

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) are: The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament; Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System; and Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. The Russian Federation feels highly committed to all topics on the agenda and is looking forward to a strong cooperation within the UNGA in order to find suitable, long-lasting solutions to approach the above-mentioned issues in an appropriate manner.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

As emerging technologies are continuously increasing in importance in various areas of our lives, the Russian Federation (Russia) is dedicated to promoting a comprehensive understanding of the development, usage and control of these technologies to ensure international security as well as sustainable development and economic growth. Emerging technologies are defined by the report "Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security" of the Secretary-General in 1990 as nuclear technology, space technology, materials technology, information technology and biotechnology. Russia considers itself as a pioneer in science and technology, especially in the areas of nuclear and space technology and is more than willing to contribute with its expertise to a global approach in determining the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament. Even though international disarmament is one of the main priorities of Russia within the United Nations (UN), Russia insists on the right to defend its sovereignty and territory with all means.

Russia's dedication to the topic of emerging technologies has been shown in the support for the *General Assembly (GA) Resolution 72/28 (2017)* which deals with the role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament. As the field of emerging technologies is a rather broad one, Russia believes the fields of information technology and cybersecurity as well as space technology to be the most urgent ones. Therefore, Russia was the first Member State to raise the issue of international information security (IIS) by introducing a draft resolution on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security to the UNGA in 1998, which was then adopted as *Resolution 53/70 (1999)* without a vote. It invites all Member States to inform the Secretary-General on urgent questions about information technology and its possible impacts on security within their country. In addition to that, Russia tabled the *GA Resolution 73/23* which was adopted in December 2018 and demands for a newly-established open-ended working group (OEWG) succeeding on, with an extended mandate, the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) that has been established by *GA Resolution 68/243 (2013).* The OEWG will be working out basic rules and norms concerning the topic of IIS and give proposals and recommendations on it to Member States and the GA. Regarding the topic of space technology, Russia, in collaboration with the People's Republic of China, initiated the establishment of a UN Group of Governmental Experts on the proposed prevention of an arms race in space (PAROS) through *GA Resolution 72/250 (2017)* with the task to make recommendations on how to create an international legally binding instrument regarding this topic.

In order to have a common base when discussing the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, Russia believes that a redefinition of the notion of emerging technologies is more than necessary, if the chances but also the complex challenges of technology want to be understood and dealt with in an appropriate manner. As information technology and cybersecurity will shape the international community to an unknown extent within the next decades, Russia urges all Member States to work together and share expertise to jointly build up a framework on the behavior of states in the information space. Only if there is a fixed set of rules in existence, peace and security can be ensured in reality as well as in virtual reality. Additionally, the dissemination of information technology through non-state actors and the multiple threats this bears need to be evaluated further and global solutions need to be found.

II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System

As one of the founding members of the UN, Russia and its predecessor state, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, have been working for a more peaceful and secure world in co-operation with the international community since the day of the foundation of the UN on October 24th ,1945. In order to do this in the most efficient and effective way possible, Russia is of the opinion that the accountability and transparency of the UN System need to be constantly reviewed and improved. A crucial aspect in improving the mechanisms for accountability and transparency within the UN System is that the UN

needs to reflect and represent the opinions of its sovereign Member States at all times and that it acts on behalf of the decisions being made by its Member States in various committees instead of developing its own policies.

Russia supported *GA Resolution 60/260 (2006)* that ensures the accountability of the UN-body to the Member States and reinforced the Member State's prerogatives in setting the UN's agenda as well as its human and financial resources. Thereby, the way for a more transparent UN-System, in which Member States remain in constant control over the Organization as ensured in Article 2.1 of the UN Charter, was paved. Furthermore, Russia is committed to combating corruption at all levels, as shown by its ratification of the *United Nations Convention against Corruption* on May 9th, 2006. In addition to that, the establishment of various internal and external oversight bodies such as the *Office of International Oversight Services (OIOS)* through *GA Resolution 48/218B (1994)* or the *Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System (JIU)* through *GA Resolution 31/192 (1976)* are greatly appreciated by Russia, as they contribute important reports and proposals to improve the accountability and transparency mechanisms within the UN System.

To finally reach better transparency and accountability, a UN management reform in the close future is indispensable. Whilst it cannot be the objective to further inflate the structure of the UN or to increase Member State spending's, it must rather be to improve the outcome with the same resources by making processes more efficient and transparent. Therefore, Russia kindly invites all interested Member States to join its efforts of modifying the already existing Ad Hoc Working Group on the Revitalization of the General Assembly. The modification would broaden the working group's focus on the entire UN System, explicitly demand an exchange of expertise with internal and external oversight bodies and set the goal of elaborating proposals through dialogue and negotiation on how to streamline the UN bureaucracy in order to make processes more transparent and cost-efficient.

III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against Women

"Russia has always paid special attention to protecting mothers and children, as well as supporting women" – Vladimir Putin, President of Russia at the 2nd Eurasian Women's Forum. Women make up more than 50% of the population of Russia and are an important key to the economic stability and development of our country, with half of the senior positions in Russian businesses being held by women. Therefore, as President Putin outlined in his quote, the elimination of violence against women certainly is one of the issues, Russia is constantly interested in intensifying its efforts in. The importance of this topic for Russia has further been highlighted by the fact that the 2nd Eurasian Women's Forum, where international discussion about how to empower women took place, has recently been held in St. Petersburg from September 19th-21st, 2018.

The Constitution of Russia guarantees equal rights for men and women and prohibits violence of any kind. In addition to that, Russia is a party of the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)* which was adopted by the GA as *Resolution 34/180* (1979) and thereby committed itself to strongly protect women's rights by regularly submitting reports on the status of women in Russia. Russia appreciates all the work being done by the *Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)* and is, as a three-time member of the Executive Board, also involved in the *United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)*. Through its support for GA Resolution 67/144 (2012), Russia once again expressed its dedication towards continuing efforts in empowering women. The connection between women and sustainable development is being recognized and emphasized in *Sustainable Development Goal 5*, adopted by the *GA Resolution 70/1 (2015)*, which Russia strives to implement to its best abilities.

Education plays a key role to empowering women and eliminating all forms of violence against them. Only women who are independent and emancipated, but also know their rights can fully make use of these. During the process of education, traditional values like family and motherhood, that will continue to be of utmost importance in the future as well, need not to be forgot about. As strong, empowered women with a traditional mindset who are conscious of their own roots are less likely to be a victim of violence, Russia proposes to implement a program within the UN-Women that develops education programs which focus on bringing traditional roots and values in accordance with a modern, emancipated role of women. The program called "Tradition and Emancipation Against Violence" (TEAV) would advise willing Member States on how to successfully make a transition from the traditional image of a woman to a more emancipated one. Specific educational measures for selected women, who will then act as trainers for women within their member states and spread the received information in a trickle-down effect, would be included into the program as well.