Delegation from the Republic of Estonia

Position Paper for the General Assembly

The topics before the General Assembly (GA) are: I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament, II. Improving Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System, and III. Intensification of Efforts to Eliminate All Forms of Violence against Women. Despite of the importance of every topic, especially the topic III is directly connected to human rights and encouraging respect for human rights is one of the primary goals of the United Nations (UN) according to the Article 1(3) Charter of the UN. Therefore, the Republic of Estonia would like to discuss topic III first, and then topic II and I.

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

The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament was first added to the agenda of the General Assembly First Committee in 1988. The broad aspects of technology covered in the report of the Secretary-General titled "Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security" in 1990 were determined as nuclear technology, space technology, materials technology, information technology and biotechnology. Since the focus of technologies was expanded from nuclear and space technologies to information technology, the international frameworks for emerging technologies surrounding devices have been needed. Therefore, in order to promote the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, we adopted the GA Resolution 58/199 in 2004 titled 'Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures'. In this Resolution, the Member States highlighted the growing importance of information technologies for the promotion of socio-economic development. We also adopted the GA Resolution 72/28 in 2017, in which discussed about 'Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament'. In the Resolution, we requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on current developments in science and technology and their potential impact on international security and disarmament matters to the Assembly. Additionally, regarding the Emerging Technologies in the Area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems, Estonia supports the efforts to universalize and strengthen the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which restricts certain anti-personnel mines and bans blinding laser beams and non-detectable fragments. Despite of the potential of the emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, there are still some negative effects of them. Therefore, we would like to suggest to improve the work of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security. The GGE still needs to be implemented on gathering information to outline the global cybersecurity agenda and introduce the principle that international law applies to keep the international security in digital space. To facilitate the cooperation on drafting an effective cybersecurity frame work within the UN States and to help Member States protect critical information infrastructure, the GGE should cooperate with the African Union and the European Union (EU). They could give financial help and experiential supports to the GGE, because they already have made a lot of efforts for this issue, such as Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee and EU Non-proliferation and Disarmament Consortium. Especially the cooperation with EU would be helpful to provide legal measures to the GGE, which aim to increase the international cyber security through the Directive on security of network and information systems.

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

The United Nations (UN) has been working on improving accountability and transparency measures within the UN system. Transparency is important to allow the public to access to information about actions and decision-making progress in the UN system. Accountability within the UN system is also important to improve the integrity and effectiveness of the UN. Therefore, the UN has developed different mechanisms working to strengthen transparency and accountability, such as the Joint Inspection Unit of the UN System and the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in terms of the proper usage of resources and the Ethics Office and the Office of Internal Oversight Services in terms of holding individuals accountable. In order to improve Mechanisms for Accountability and Transparency within the UN System, our country supported the GA resolutions 68/264 (2014), 69/272 (2015), 70/255 (2016), and 71/283 (2017) on "Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat", which reviews the annual progress report of the Secretary-General and provide requests to the Secretary-General for the improvement of transparency and accountability in

the UN. We also signed the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) adopted by the General Assembly in 2003 by Resolution 58/4 to combat corruption in Member States and establish accountability and transparency measures in terms of financial management of governments. Furthermore, in 2013, we launched new initiative to improve the working methods of the Security Council regarding to accountability and transparency with other 20 Member States. However, despite of these efforts, there are still some tasks to improve transparency and accountability in the UN system, because of the lack of enforcement capacity, gift-giving and receiving. In order to tackle these issues, Estonia believes that the strong culture of accountability and commitment to transparency within the UN is required. Therefore, we would like to suggest the establishment of the new initiative called "Analysis for Accountability and Transparency (AAT)" under each UN sub organs. The AAT will consist of the experts who are appointed and sent by the UN Secretariat. They will provide a comparative analysis of accountability and transparency frameworks and mechanisms to each UN bodies and evaluate the effectiveness of the framework by in-depth staff and management surveys at least every 2 years. They will also report the evaluation and analysis results to the legislative body such as the Chief Executive Board (CEB), and then the CEB can collect the data, serve the coordination and share knowledge of the mechanisms with the Member States as well as the general public.

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

According to the Estonian publication in European Institute for Gender Equality, "Violence against women (VAW) is rooted in women's unequal status in society, and that status reflects the unbalanced distribution of social, political, and economic power among women and men in society". It is one of the most pervasive human rights violations of our time and a form of discrimination that results in physical, sexual, or mental harm or suffering to women. Further, violence against women can hinder social and economic development for the women, their communities and the global community. According to the UN Women, only 2% of women struggled with Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months in our country. However, still 20% of women suffer from Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence. In order to eliminate all forms of violence against women, Estonia agreed with the GA resolution 67/144 (2013) called for Member States to "empower and protect women" and to ensure the implementation of recommended measures to end violence against women. Also we participated in UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and supported its implementation. Our country was one of the co-facilitators in the creation of UN Women and had a membership in the UN Commission on the Status of Women 2011–2015 and a chairmanship of the Consultative Committee of the United Nations Development Fund for Women from 2007–2009 to contribute to the improvement of the situation of women in international intergovernmental forums. Furthermore, as a member of the Council of Europe, we adopted the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence in 2011. Despite the progress which has been made in eliminating violence against women, there are still areas needed to be more strengthened, such as effective implementation of multisectoral services and educational programs that reach all women. Therefore, we would like to suggest setting up the 'Cooperation for Combating Violence Against Women (CCVW)" program under the General Assembly. Through this program, we expect the development of private-public partnerships that would efficiently serve the protection for women who are struggling with violence, such as a women's shelter. The CCVW program will cooperate with the UN Women. The UN Women has already researched the situation regarding the violence against women in each country through the "Global Database on Violence against Women" program and provided the database to general public from 2016. Based on the database of the UN Women, they will provide the information to each Member State's government, private companies, and Non-Governmental Organizations and encourage them to work on eliminating violence against women. Companies and other private sector actors have lots of experience in marketing and branding to change the cultural perceptions which allow violence against women to maintain. Strong communication and collaboration between public and private sectors can create more innovative solutions to tackle violence against women together. Furthermore, the cooperation with the World Bank would be financially helpful, because the World Bank has addressed gender-based violence through investment, research and learning such as 'Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response Project'. The World Bank supports over $300 million in development projects which aims to address violence against women in World Bank Group financed operations. Through the cooperation with the World Bank, the CCVW program will provide financial support to the collaboration between public and private sectors, for example, to stimulate education in the prevention and care of VAW through creative initiatives between the public sector and private sector.