



S L O V A K I A

**Statement by His Excellency
Ambassador Michal Mlynár**

Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations

**at the Arria-Formula Meeting
of the United Nations Security Council**

on Cyber Stability, Conflict Prevention and Capacity Building

**May 22, 2020
New York, NY**

Thank you, Mr. President,

Slovakia associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union. I would like to make some additional remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

I would like to thank Estonia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, and Kenya for organizing this timely discussion that provides an opportunity for reflection on the connections between the global efforts to promote cyber cooperation and cyber challenges to international peace and security.

We can safely say that internet has become a pillar of our societies and it is undoubtedly embedded in our lives. It helps us to grow economically and at the same time it gives people access to information, education, innovations, knowledge and development. It brings all kinds of opportunities and social benefits to everyone.

Therefore, it is absolutely crucial to keep cyberspace global, open, stable, peaceful and, last but not least, secure. In order to keep and leverage all the benefits mentioned above, it is important to support and promote cyberspace, where human rights and fundamental freedoms are respected and where the rule of law fully applies. We should also intensify our efforts to prevent and discourage state and non-state actors, who are misusing cyberspace for malicious cyber activities and using cyber tools to promote their own interests.

Slovakia is of the opinion that Internet should be used, inter alia, as a tool for cooperation, communication and last but not least, as a tool for strengthening understanding between states rather than a tool for confrontation and competition. Therefore, Slovakia strongly condemns any misusing of cyberspace for anybody's own strategic advantage. Slovakia also stresses the importance of effective multilateralism, which helps member states build a better cooperation and mutual understanding particularly in cyberspace. Only by using effective multilateralism tools we would be able to manage and tackle current and future challenges in cyberspace and strengthen our resilience against existing and emerging threats.

We are convinced that stability in cyberspace should be based on existing international law, including the Charter of the United Nations in its entirety, voluntary norms, rules and principles of responsible State behavior and their

implementation in cyberspace, international humanitarian law, and international human rights law. Slovakia fully supports the applicability of existing international law to state conduct in cyberspace as recognized by three consensus reports of Groups of Governmental Experts endorsed by the UN General Assembly in 2010, 2013 and 2015.

When it comes to confidence building measures and capacity building in cyberspace, Slovakia is of the opinion that these two are indispensable measures in order to keep cyberspace stable and predictable as well as to prevent conflicts in it. Regional organizations such as, for instance, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) can provide a very useful inspiration and best practice when it comes to enhancing conflict prevention and strengthening cooperation between states in cyberspace. Regular communication and interaction between states is necessary in order to avoid conflicts and also to deescalate potential rising tensions in cyberspace. Creating global CBM's inspired by the best practices of regional organizations could be a very effective step forward to achieve more stable cyberspace.

Capacity building, especially in developing countries, is helping to bridge a digital gap and is supporting the world's digitalization, which undoubtedly leads to more secure and stable cyberspace. Slovakia fully supports all cyber capacity building efforts and initiatives carried out by countries and organizations in the field and highly appreciates inclusion of developing countries in dialogues on bilateral and multilateral levels as a contribution to global stability efforts in cyberspace.

Mr. President,

Nowadays, when the world is facing one of the worst crises, which has affected all of us, safe, secure, and stable internet plays even more significant role than ever. Slovakia is deeply concerned by malicious cyber activities and disinformation campaigns which take advantage of the coronavirus pandemic. We condemn this malicious behavior in cyberspace and express solidarity with all countries that are victims of these activities. I would like to conclude by highlighting the need to strengthen of our common determination to increase global cyber resilience in order to efficiently prevent, discourage and respond to malicious cyber activities exploiting the pandemic.

Thank you, Mr. President.