



# General Assembly

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**Fifty-ninth session**  
Agenda item 60

## Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 3 December 2004

[on the report of the First Committee (A/59/454)]

### **59/61. Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security**

*The General Assembly,*

*Recalling* its resolutions 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001, 57/53 of 22 November 2002 and 58/32 of 8 December 2003,

*Recalling also* its resolutions on the role of science and technology in the context of international security, in which, inter alia, it recognized that scientific and technological developments could have both civilian and military applications and that progress in science and technology for civilian applications needed to be maintained and encouraged,

*Noting* that considerable progress has been achieved in developing and applying the latest information technologies and means of telecommunication,

*Affirming* that it sees in this process the broadest positive opportunities for the further development of civilization, the expansion of opportunities for cooperation for the common good of all States, the enhancement of the creative potential of humankind and additional improvements in the circulation of information in the global community,

*Recalling*, in this connection, the approaches and principles outlined at the Information Society and Development Conference, held in Midrand, South Africa, from 13 to 15 May 1996,

*Bearing in mind* the results of the Ministerial Conference on Terrorism, held in Paris on 30 July 1996, and the recommendations that it made,<sup>1</sup>

*Noting* that the dissemination and use of information technologies and means affect the interests of the entire international community and that optimum effectiveness is enhanced by broad international cooperation,

<sup>1</sup> See A/51/261, annex.

*Expressing its concern* that these technologies and means can potentially be used for purposes that are inconsistent with the objectives of maintaining international stability and security and may adversely affect the integrity of the infrastructure of States to the detriment of their security in both civil and military fields,

*Considering* that it is necessary to prevent the use of information resources or technologies for criminal or terrorist purposes,

*Noting* the contribution of those Member States that have submitted their assessments on issues of information security to the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraphs 1 to 3 of resolutions 53/70, 54/49, 55/28, 56/19, 57/53 and 58/32,

*Taking note* of the reports of the Secretary-General containing those assessments,<sup>2</sup>

*Welcoming* the initiative taken by the Secretariat and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research in convening an international meeting of experts in Geneva in August 1999 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, as well as its results,

*Considering* that the assessments of the Member States contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the international meeting of experts have contributed to a better understanding of the substance of issues of international information security and related notions,

1. *Calls upon* Member States to promote further at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security, as well as possible measures to limit the threats emerging in this field, consistent with the need to preserve the free flow of information;

2. *Considers* that the purpose of such measures could be served through the examination of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems;

3. *Invites* all Member States to continue to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the following questions:

(a) General appreciation of the issues of information security;

(b) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;

(c) The content of the concepts mentioned in paragraph 2 above;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that the Secretary-General is considering existing and potential threats in the sphere of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, and is conducting a study on the concepts referred to in paragraph 2 above, with the assistance of the group of governmental experts, established in 2004 pursuant to resolution 58/32, and will submit a report on the outcome of the study to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session;

5. *Also notes with satisfaction* that the group of governmental experts established by the Secretary-General held its first session from 12 to 16 July 2004 in

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<sup>2</sup> A/54/213, A/55/140 and Corr.1 and Add.1, A/56/164 and Add.1, A/57/166 and Add.1, A/58/373 and A/59/116 and Add.1.

New York and that it intends to convene two more sessions in 2005 to fulfil its mandate specified in resolution 58/32;

6. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixtieth session the item entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

*66th plenary meeting  
3 December 2004*