



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

THIRD COMMITTEE

ITEMS 108, 109 AND 110 - CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE; COUNTERING THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR CRIMINAL PURPOSES; INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL

STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, SECOND SECRETARY

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Mr. Chair,

Cyber security has become a top priority for many if not all of our Governments. Measures to counter cybercrime have been adopted at the national and regional levels. The UN has an important role to play in regulating cyber security at the international level. We are grateful to the Secretary-General and the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for their continued high ambition in that respect. Member States' increasing engagement at the United Nations, in particular in the context of the Open-Ended Working Group on cybersecurity illustrates the high relevance of the topic. We are hopeful that broad common interest in a strengthened rule of law in cyberspace will drive future discussions.

The question of cyber security falls squarely into the context of the United Nation's core mission to advance peace and security, human rights and sustainable development. Trends towards an increasingly militarized cyberspace, developments in artificial intelligence, pervasive data collection and manipulation, as well as cybercrime constitute real security risks to States and

their citizens. They need to be analyzed thoroughly against the existing legal framework and addressed comprehensively across all three pillars of the United Nations.

Strengthening international law in this area also includes expanding the fight against impunity to the cyber domain. With the increasing digitization of warfare, understanding the extent to which existing international law applies to cyberattacks and cyber warfare is imperative. Liechtenstein will place a particular emphasis on this question in UN discussions in this area.

Mr. Chair,

Laws and policies regulating cyberspace have a direct impact on human rights, particularly the right to privacy. It is the obligation of Member States to ensure that any interference with the right to privacy is consistent with the principle of legality, necessity and proportionality. Regulation of cyberspace and the criminalization of cybercrime therefore need to be carefully calibrated, in order to find a proper balance between security concerns and the respect for human rights. Liechtenstein strongly supports the strengthening of international law that regulates activities in cyberspace, through regulations based on transparency, cooperation and human rights, such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, and opposes the development of parallel or diverging normative standards in the area of cybercrime.

Recent reports by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism document that many States are acting in ways that put the right to privacy as well as other human rights at risk. Some States increasingly employ new technologies that violate the right to privacy. This includes the use of Big Data and health data as well as arbitrary surveillance of their own citizens in new ways and to an unprecedented extent. Gender, race, class, social origin and religion are among the factors which determine who is watched, and they make certain individuals more likely to suffer violations of their right to privacy or other human rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of

religion or belief. There is an increased use of surveillance practices by intelligence agencies, premised on countering terrorism or violent extremism. However, it has undermined the trust that societies place not only in the State and its institutions, but also, ultimately, in the rule of law.

It is of utmost importance that Member States protect the right to privacy in line with international law, and in upholding the rule of law. Liechtenstein has joined the International Partnership for Information and Technology of the Alliance of Multilateralism which recalls the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Only if citizens can enjoy their fundamental freedoms and human rights, without fearing discrimination, persecution or punishment, can we create societies that are peaceful, just and inclusive – as universally agreed in SDG 16 in the 2030 Agenda.

I thank you.