Fourth round of Informal Meetings, December 1-3, 2020

— We would like to, once again, thank the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group, Ambassador Lauber, his team and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for proposing and conducting these rounds of virtual consultations, which have proved to be very useful in preparation for the last substantive session where we must complete our work.

— I regret to have to report that on this occasion we were also unable to connect directly from Cuba to the meeting platform. This situation has forced us, once again, to use a virtual private network, which decreases the quality of the connection. We will inform the Office for Disarmament Affairs about the situation facing Cuba, which puts us at a disadvantage in relation to the rest of the Member States. We are confident that the ODA will take the necessary practical steps to address this issue. Therefore, I ask for your understanding in case my intervention has technical problems.
Due to the complexity of some of the issues and the divergent views, it has been very difficult to reach consensus on some sections of the preliminary draft report. We therefore consider that it is very essential to agree on how the discussion on the use of ICTs in the context of international security will continue within the United Nations.

The Open-ended Working Group recently approved in the First Committee offers us the space to continue our discussions in an open, transparent and inclusive manner, including seeking consensus on the most complex issues. For the first time, we have a multilateral space within the United Nations where we can address all the initiatives of the Member States, and decide together and by consensus the way forward on this important issue.

Finally, we would like to underline the relevance of inclusiveness in each and every discussion about ICTs in the context of international security. It is paramount that we establish that all issues that are a priority for any Member State will be discussed on an equal footing, without exclusions of any kind, including, for example, the possibility of starting negotiations to adopt a legally binding instrument that complements existing international law in relation to the responsible behavior of States in the field of ICT.

***