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Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

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Report of the Secretary-General

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
I. Introduction	2
II. Replies received from Member States	3
Chile	3
Mexico	3

* A/60/50 and Corr.1.

I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 3 of its resolution 59/61 of 3 December 2004 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, the General Assembly invited 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; and (c) the content of relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems.

2. By a note verbale dated 25 February 2005, all Member States were invited to inform the Secretary-General of their views and assessments on the subject. To date, two replies have been received. The texts of these replies are contained in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addendums to the present report.

II. Replies received from Member States

Chile

[Original: Spanish]
[16 May 2005]

Chile attaches great importance to information security in the context of international security. In the legislative sphere, progress has been made in adopting a number of laws and regulations with respect to the security and confidentiality of electronic documents and the efficient transmission of documents between State administrative bodies and between them and citizens.

In view of the importance of this topic, Chile will actively participate in the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in November 2005.

Mexico

[Original: Spanish]
[18 May 2005]

Mexico is convinced that information and telecommunications systems are matters of strategic importance whose consequences on international security must be borne in mind.

This topic should be included in consultations between States with a view to strengthening continued international cooperation and scrutiny, so as to preserve the free flow of information and to promote the development of such systems for peaceful purposes, with tangible benefits for disarmament and non-proliferation. It will be essential, as well, to establish laws regulating this sphere, since legal gaps can mean existing and potential threats in the field of information security.

Mexico is concerned about the effect of information and telecommunications security on defence systems, in particular where nuclear weapons and their vector systems are involved.

Mexico supports the work of the group of governmental experts that is collaborating with the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the formulation of a study on existing and potential threats in the field of information security and possible cooperative measures to address them, as well as relevant international concepts aimed at strengthening the security of global information and telecommunications systems, as indicated in paragraphs 4 and 2 of General Assembly resolution 58/32.

It notes with interest the deliberations during 2005 of the group of governmental experts, which intends to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 59/61, adopted on 3 December 2004. Mexico has appointed a specialist to the group of governmental experts, and it hopes that the report will contain substantive recommendations on this topic.