



DELEGATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN
TO THE OSCE

PC.DEL/967/18
13 July 2018
OSCE+
ENGLISH only

Statement by Ambassador Kairat Sarybay, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna at the 1192nd meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council in response to the Address by the Vice President of Microsoft Corporate, Mr. John Frank, on the Digital Geneva Convention (12 July 2018)

Dear Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, let me welcome Mr. John Frank, the Vice President of Microsoft Corporate to the Permanent Council and thank him for comprehensive presentation.

Last year my government approved the Digital Kazakhstan state programme which is an important tool that aims to improve the standard of living of every citizen through the use of digital technologies.

The plan is to implement the programme until 2022 in following key areas: digitalization of the economy, transition to digital government, human capital development, etc. Effective implementation of the Digital Kazakhstan programme requires strengthening the cybersecurity as well.

Propagandistic and recruitment activities conducted by the representatives of radical religious movements, transnational organized crime elements through Internet became the serious challenge to save the balance between searching the countermeasures against propagation of violent information and observance of human rights, including freedom of expression.

In order to increase the level of cybersecurity, the "Cybershield of Kazakhstan" program was adopted last year. This concept outlines key areas of state policy that will be required to build a modern and reliable system to mitigate and prevent attacks and threats in cyberspace.

Dear colleagues,

We support strengthening of international cooperation in the field of countering cyber-attacks and preventing conflicts in the information space. In this regard, Kazakhstan fully supports the ongoing activities within the OSCE, such as the Informal Working Group on Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) set by PC.DEC./1039.

OSCE remains the only organization that achieved major practical accomplishments by adopting confidence-building measures (CBMs) even though some of the participating States have different approaches in the field of cyber security. We consider IWG meeting as a practical platform for constructive and efficient implementation, and the possible development of further CBMs to reduce the risks of conflict stemming from the use of ICTs.

In this regard, we think that OSCE participating States should enhance the channel of exchange information and best practices about issues related to cyberspace.

We also believe that measures developed by the international community should be aimed at creating a universal system of international security in the field of ICTs without politicizing and forming of military and political alliances.

In this context, we support the UN SC Resolution 2341 (2017) on Protection of critical infrastructure. Kazakhstan was also a co-sponsor of the UN GA resolution (A/RES/62/17 of December 5, 2007) on use of ICTs in the context of international security.

Last year the Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation adopted Astana declaration where the SCO member states agreed to continue their in-depth cooperation in combating crimes in the information and communication sphere and called for developing a corresponding international legal instrument with the UN playing the central coordinating role.

Kazakhstan supports the intention of global technology business community to adopt Cybersecurity Tech Accord in the framework of the “Digital Geneva Convention”, in other words, a set of rules and principles for the responsible behavior in cyberspace. We believe that the decision of Microsoft to refrain from attacking systems whose destruction would impact the safety and security of citizens, to limit proliferation of cyber weapons and to assist private sector efforts to detect, contain, respond, and recover in the face of cyber-attacks would be an effective contribution to the global cyberspace.

I thank you.