



STATEMENT BY AMB. JUAN RAMÓN DE LA FUENTE, AT THE ARRIA FORMULA MEETING ON “THE IMPACT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY”

New York, May 17th, 2021

I will be brief this morning, as the position of Mexico regarding this issue has been clear for quite some time.

We are very pleased to co-host today's meeting with a cross-regional and plural group of countries. I wish to thank our esteemed briefers for setting the context for our discussion.

Over the last few years, we have seen an enormous technological change. Some have qualified it as the most relevant revolution of our times. As the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated our reliance on modern technologies, we should not underestimate their potential impact on international peace and security, and I believe this is what this Arria Formula is about. This is an opportunity to reaffirm the applicability of international law and to advance programs and mechanisms already developed by the UN system, together with some innovations and additions that are very much needed.

The Secretary General's "Roadmap for digital cooperation", as it has been said, states that emerging technologies play a key role in promoting connectivity, inclusivity, and overall development opportunities. Nevertheless, we must be aware of the challenges that come with the use of these technologies. In our view, restricting their access is not the answer. Rather, we should strive to prevent and counter the unlawful and criminal uses of emerging technologies, that is the real challenge.

Mexico wishes to emphasize the need to look at these international security issues through the lens based on the promotion and protection of human rights, their potential contribution to sustainable development as a key element for equality, the advancement of the gender agenda and the peaceful settlement of disputes, all of them in the context of multilateral cooperation.

The promotion of transparency and capacity-building in all our joint efforts remains a priority for Mexico. That is why, achieving sustained and balanced progress between the development of new technologies, and norms and regulations to use them securely should be fundamental. New technologies may



imply an unexplored domain that requires new skills and resources. And in order to maximize their benefits, we must commit to help each other on building digital capacity and making them available and secure to all.

Mexico believes in multilateralism as a platform to gather not only our countries, but also international institutions, civil society, industry, academia, and other stakeholders.

We acknowledge the recent landmark report of the First Committee's Open-Ended Working Group and we welcome the ongoing work by the Governmental Group of Experts on cyberspace and on lethal autonomous weapons. Likewise, the Human Rights Council and Third Committee have played a role with resolutions on the right to privacy in the digital age.

I have no doubt that in the coming years our discussions regarding the promotion of human rights online, internet governance, and the fight against cybercrime will be the norm. Violent extremism and the effects of hate speech through digital platforms including its disruptions to peace and security will be of increased focus on the Security Council, I have no doubt about it.

To conclude, let me reiterate that Mexico considers emerging technologies in a positive way. Most countries are increasingly understanding that they need to keep up technological progress, while acknowledging the dangers of a growing digital divide.

Today's meeting is an opportunity to exchange a wide array of views, all of them are welcomed pieces to further implement existing UN commitments on international security, economic, and social development, as well as human rights and their humanitarian effects on the digital age.

Finally, I hope that this discussion will encourage us to break silos and to promote complementarity and coherence withing the UN system

Thank you, Mr. Chair.