SECOND COMMITTEE
ITEM 16. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES FOR DEVELOPMENT

STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR GUILHERME DE AGUIAR PATRIOTA
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

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(check against delivery)
Mr. Chairman,

I thank you and the members of the Bureau for convening this meeting and I wish to acknowledge the Secretary-General for his report.

My delegation associates itself with the statement by Fiji on behalf of the G77 and China, and would like to present the following comments in its national capacity.

Information and communications technologies (ICTs) can play a catalyzing role in helping developing countries to achieve the goals of poverty eradication, inclusive economic growth and sustainable development.

Despite the extraordinary advances in new technologies in recent years, however, the majority of poor populations worldwide have not yet benefited from the possible gains.

At the Rio+20 Conference, Member States recognized that ICTs facilitate the flow of information between governments and citizens. We agreed that it is essential to work towards improved access to ICTs, especially broadband network and services, and to bridge the digital divide.

The United Nations system as a whole is called to implement all mandates from the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). Follow-up of the Geneva and Tunis decisions, unfortunately, has not yet been undertaken with the determination needed to meet these goals.

Mr. Chairman,

The democratization of Internet governance is an issue of great concern. The building of an open, diverse and reliable information society depends on the adoption of more democratic decision-making processes at the international level.
The UN is the most adequate forum to carry out this task.

Brazil's own experience highlights the importance of a multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance. The Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, created in 2003, involves representatives from the government, the private sector, civil society and the academic communities. It is made up of 21 members, of which a minority of 9 are appointed by the Government. My delegation thus looks forward to discussing these arrangements on a broader scale at the UN.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil welcomes the inputs from the working group on "enhanced cooperation" in the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). Its recommendations, which are to be submitted to the Economic and Social Council, should also address the need to promote and protect all fundamental Human Rights, including the right to privacy, as a contribution to the General Assembly for the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015.

Recent revelations concerning a global network of electronic surveillance have shown us that serious violations of human rights and civil liberties have taken place in the name of the fight against terrorism. As a founding member of this Organization, built over the wreckage of war to promote a culture of peace, Brazil repudiates the use of any pretext for violating human rights and civil liberties. It is not only immoral; it is illegal. As the Security Council has repeatedly declared, States must ensure that measures taken to combat terrorism must comply with all their obligations under International Law, in particular Human Rights, Refugee and Humanitarian Law.
The fight against terrorism cannot justify indiscriminate interception of personal data of citizens, governments and corporations. And the advancement of technology should not occur at the expense of sound international behaviour, respectful of the principles of sovereignty and equality among nations and peoples.

The United Nations must play a leading role in the effort to regulate the conduct of States and prevent the cyberspace from being used in a way that undermines international cooperation at a time that we have been entrusted with the task of enhancing cooperation.

We must favor an inclusive consultation process with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, for the establishment of a civilian multilateral framework for the governance and use of the Internet and to ensure the effective protection of data traveling through the web. We need to sidestep the false dilemma between free speech and privacy on the one hand and security in the cyberspace on the other. So long as there are no guarantees that the flow information remains private, speech cannot be deemed to be free.

Harnessing the full potential of the Internet requires a common set of principles and responsible regulation, which ensure at the same time freedom of expression, multi-stakeholder governance, diversity and respect for human rights, particularly the right to privacy. Brazil calls on Member States and the UN system to engage in this important debate.

Thank you.