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**General Assembly  
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Agenda item 95**Developments in the field of information and  
telecommunications in the context of international security****Security Council  
Seventy-seventh year****Letter dated 7 September 2022 from the Permanent  
Representative of Albania to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

Upon instruction from my Government, I wish to inform you that, as of today, the Republic of Albania has decided to sever its diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, with immediate effect.

On 15 July 2022, Albania became the target of an unprecedented heavy cyberattack on the entire government digital infrastructure with the clear aim of destroying it, paralysing public services and stealing data and electronic communications from government systems. The disruptive attack failed in its main goals despite the damage inflicted, which by all accounts may now be considered minimal.

A thorough in-depth investigation conducted in cooperation with specialized partner agencies on cyberterrorism has now confirmed, beyond any doubt, that the cyberattack was a State-sponsored aggression carried out by four groups, orchestrated and sponsored by the Islamic Republic of Iran. One of the cyber groups is a notorious international cyberterrorist actor, identified earlier in similar cyberattacks targeting other countries.

In response, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania has decided to sever diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tirana, Albania, has been officially notified that all its diplomatic, technical, administrative and security staff must leave the territory of the Republic of Albania within 24 hours.

The Republic of Albania holds the Islamic Republic of Iran directly responsible for this irresponsible and unprovoked cyberattack and considers its response to be fully proportionate to the gravity of and risk posed by a State-organized and -sponsored cyberattack against a sovereign country that threatened to disrupt public services, erase digital systems and steal or wipe critical State records and other electronic communications with the aim of affecting the integrity of government infrastructure



to the detriment of its security, paralysing its institutions and vital activity, putting in danger the lives of civilians and creating chaos and insecurity in the country.

The actions and conduct of the Islamic Republic of Iran are a blatant breach of the norms of responsible peacetime State behaviour in cyberspace, which include refraining from damaging critical infrastructure that provides services to the public.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 95, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ferit **Hoxha**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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