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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political, economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Written statement* submitted by the All-Russian public organization "Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law", a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[16 March 2017]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Terrorism in global networks

Unfortunately nowadays the best achievements of humanity are also used in its illegal goals by terrorist and extremist organizations. Last years these organizations are firmly settled in global networks of Internet and use it actively for reaching their illegal goals.

The terrorist activity in Internet includes ideological propaganda, intimidation, disinformation, requirement of potential supporters, cooperation among each other. Wide known example is the case of Russian student requirement Varvara Karaulova.

High efficiency of Internet is the main reason of its usage by illegal organizations and other interested subjects with the purpose to influence on democratic procedures and to get the power bypassing constitutional procedures and established international norms.

The active growth of Internet users (mostly the young audience) makes the problem of confrontation to terrorism and unlawful conduct in global networks very important. For the last 6 years the number of Internet users has grown in twice, for the last 20 years (from 1995 to 2016) - in 230 times in absolute terms and in 125 in proportional terms from the number of world inhabitants. Nowadays more than half of the earth inhabitants use the Internet.

Internet became a real global informational network today, that can cover the users-consumers, from one side, and users-spreaders that can be anyone, if he wishes, from another side.

Unfortunately, obvious benefits of this process are attended with new challenges.

Sites, social networks, blogs and video-blogs, forums became communicational ground for terrorist cooperation with potential supporters in the Internet.

Organizing flash mobs that create the treat of human life and health, forming associations that propagandize suicides influence on the unformed youth mind.

There are a lot of attacks on the sites of governmental bodies, banks and other structures.

During the last year we often heard the accusations against hackers, including Russian hackers, in interfering in elections of the major countries of the world. Despite the strange and unsubstantiated accusations (as a rule system of voting and vote tabulation are separated from the Internet) this issue requires special attention and fast resolution.

Nowadays there are different approaches to stand against the terrorism and criminality in the Internet. For example, the mechanism of site blocking is used in Russia in the case of spreading inappropriate content, especially extremism content. In some other countries, for example in France, the responsibility for repeated viewing of the sites with criminal content is provided, thus there can be cases when the user don't know about the illegal content of the site.

It is obvious that the confrontation to cybercrimes is mostly impossible at the level of individual states in conditions of globality, transboundariness, anonymity of the Internet. There is necessity to develop common principles and norms in the frame of UN as the largest international organization. Such an attempt was made by Russian Federation in the Convention on ensuring international information security several years ago and this Convention can be taken as basis and updated with due consideration of participating countries.

The main terms, including cybercrime, principles of cooperation and mutual obligations of states, main approaches for standing against the terrorism in the Internet and bringing to responsibility, must be determined in the document.

Special attention should be paid to the mechanisms of protection and restoration of rights of victims of such crimes, to develop effective rehabilitation measures to restore justice in the legal field.

The participants of the side-event, that was organized by Russian Public Institute of Electoral Law on March 2, 2017, expressed the conviction that the development of such document will be the sufficient contribution in countering the terrorism.
