Octopus Conference speech given by Eleanor Fuller, UK Permanent Representative and Chairperson of the Committee of Ministers

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share the outcomes of the London Conference on Cyberspace, and I would like to extend my thanks to those countries and organisations that attended, and contributed to a fascinating, forward-looking and constructive set of debates.

There was general affirmation at the Conference of the positive and transformative benefits of the Internet and the vital need to preserve and protect these benefits. Participants agreed that human rights and the rights to freedom of expression and association apply with equal force in cyber space.

The Conference considered five key topics: economic growth and development, social benefits, safe and reliable access, international security, and cyber crime. These covered the range of issues that we believe need to be addressed to allow the internet to grow in a safe but open manner. In this forum, I'd naturally like to focus on the last theme.

Cyber crime was seen as a significant threat to economic and social well-being, and much of the debate focussed, as the British Government had hoped, on the need for close international cooperation to tackle the threat.

There was agreement that all countries need to have in place appropriate legislation to tackle cyber crime, and the appropriate law enforcement powers to give effect to these. Many countries have taken steps towards implementing cyber crime legislation, but it was recognised that legislation needed to be compatible to ensure effective international cooperation.

The Budapest Convention was seen as effective, and there was little appetite for negotiating a new instrument. Many delegates encouraged countries to look at whether they could sign up to the Budapest Convention, and the UK was asked to play its part in promoting the Budapest Convention, particularly as the UK has taken on the Chair of the Council of Europe. We have consistently supported the Convention and intend to take forward this request, working closely with the Council and with other international partners to promote it.

In his closing address, the Foreign Secretary William Hague drew out a number of observations. The first is that the Conference had shown that there was global desire for cyber space to be made safe to fulfil its potential as an enabler of social and economic development.

The second point is that no one sector can provide security in cyberspace. I'd like to emphasise this point more widely. A feature of the Conference was the bringing together of official delegates with non-governmental representatives of industry,

business, academia and civil society. The discussions were much richer as a result. That underlined the view – supported by all participants – that development of cyberspace as a trusted environment cannot be the responsibility of governments alone, but must involve the full range of stakeholders.

Thirdly, providing a secure cyber space is a long-term programme. London was not a one-off event. Importantly, Hungary and South Korea have generously agreed to host the next two conferences in 2012 and 2013 respectively, to pursue the agenda set out in London. I am confident that they will be successful in furthering the development of international cooperation.

I hope that I have been able to give you a flavour of the Conference, and of the debates that took place. Thank you for your time, and may I wish the Octopus Conference every success.