

**WRITTEN PAPER OF CUBA UNDER AGENDA ITEM 2 "THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING CONFIDENCE AND SECURITY IN THE USE OF ICTS". COMMISSION OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT. Geneva, 12 to 16 May, 2014.**

Last April 4, the Associated Press (AP) published the article "US Secretly Built 'Cuban Twitter' To Stir Unrest". Regarding this article, and in order to bring one example of the necessity to continue our discussions and deliberations on the use of ICTs in the aim of building confidence and security, as stated in Action Line C.5 of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) final documents, Cuba respectfully would like to call the attention of CSTD Member States on the following facts:

1. The project denounced by AP was planned, financed, and implemented by a member State of CSTD, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).
2. The scheme consisted in the development of a communication network using cell phone text messaging.
3. The services to become subscribers to this network were offered free of charge to Cuban cell phone users.
4. In order to do this, the operators of the project illegally obtained the Cuban Telecommunications Company (ETECSA) numbers database.
5. The network was active for two years up to 2012 reaching around 40 thousands subscribers.
6. The Member State of ITU directly involved in this program made extraordinary efforts to conceal its involvement in the project through a complex of shell companies and bank accounts in third countries.
7. The subscribers never knew that the service was created by the foreign government.

8. Personal data of the Cuban users were gathered without their consent, with the aim of creating profiles to be used for political purposes, contrary to the International Law, and in specific against the UN Charter.
9. The project operators sent unsolicited political messages to the subscribers of this network.
10. This project, called ZunZuneo is not the only platform created with these characteristics. There are others in operation like a social network called Piramideo and news-platforms *Martí Noticias*, *Diario de Cuba* and *Cubasincensura*, among others.

The example of ZunZuneo raised the debate on the use of ICTs while respecting International Agreements. Once again, Cuba denounces the hostile use of telecommunications by the Government of the United States to undermine the socio-economic and political order sovereignty established by the Cuban people and to provoke a "change regime", in a clear violation to the International Law and in particular the Charter of the United Nations.

Cuba reminds also to the CSTD, particularly this year when the Commission will analyze the progress made in the implementation and follow up of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, the necessity to include in its debate that this kind of examples does not contribute to the implementation of the agreements taken during the Summit. In special, Cuba would like to remind that Action Line C5 calls countries to:

1. Promote cooperation among the governments and the United Nations and with all stakeholders to enhance user confidence, build trust and protect both data and network integrity; consider existing and potential threats to ICTs; and address other information security and network security issues.

## 2. Take appropriate action on spam at national and international level

In this regard, Cuba strongly condemns this kind of aggression and calls the CSTD Member States and the international community to promote the atmosphere of security and confidence that our High Level Representatives agreed upon within the framework of the WSIS Final Documents.

