

COMMITTEE: Human Rights Council

TOPIC: Safeguarding Rights to Digital Privacy

COUNTRY: China

Honorable chairs, esteemed delegates:

- A. The issue of safeguarding digital privacy is an increasingly significant problem. The 12th Article of the United-Nations-approved Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that the right to privacy is, too, an inalienable right, and with the technologically advancing world we have today, it should mean no different. However, secret surveillance agreements have infringed these rights of citizens, monitoring and spying on the world's communication. Recently, in an attempt to solve this issue, Germany and Brazil have introduced resolutions that protected these rights against illegal surveillance systems. Although this resolution is passed in the UN Human Rights Council, mass progress is still, unfortunately, not evident.
- B. In China, this is as serious of a problem as any other, and we hope to solve it as soon as possible. Recently, on December 28th, 2012, China's legislative body passed the "Decision on Strengthening Network Information Protection," which consisted of various laws for protecting, collecting, and using personal information digitally. These laws include prohibiting the illicit selling or stealing of personal information; requiring that Internet Service Providers publicly and clearly indicate their objectives upon obtaining consent; guaranteeing confidentiality; adopting technological measures to ensure security; and prohibiting the sending of commercial electronic communications without consent. This package of laws, above others, illustrate China's desire to protect network information security, the legal interests of its citizens, and its social order. Therefore, China stands alongside those who wish to solve this problem and supports any efforts to do so.
- C. China believes that in order to assure the safeguarding of rights to digital privacy, we need to take these certain steps. First, governments have to raise awareness through different methods that the rights to digital privacy are ours, for in some cultures, people, especially those who are illiterate, don't understand which entitlements are and which aren't rightfully theirs. Second, governments have to enforce laws clarifying what should or shouldn't be legal regarding this topic. Third, they have to clarify what happens to those who violate other people's digital privacy rights, including setting the appropriate punishments for dealing with such criminals and educating them the principles and damaging results of their actions. China sees these steps as pivotal in the process of alleviating the current situation, and calls upon all delegates to work together to solve this pressing issue.