Appendix C: International Code of Conduct for Information Security (SCO)

1. To comply with the UN Charter and universally recognized norms governing international relations, which enshrine, inter alia, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of all states, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as respect for diversity of history, culture, and social systems of all countries.

2. Not to use ICTs including networks to carry out hostile activities or acts of aggression and pose threats to international peace and security. Not to proliferate information weapons and related technologies.

3. To cooperate in combating criminal and terrorist activities which use ICTs including networks, and curbing dissemination of information which incites terrorism, secessionism, and extremism or undermines other countries’ political, economic, and social stability, as well as their spiritual and cultural environment.

4. To endeavor to ensure the supply chain security of ICT products and services, prevent other states from using their resources, critical infrastructures, core technologies, and other advantages, to undermine the right of the countries, which accepted this Code of Conduct, to independent control of ICTs, or to threaten other countries’ political, economic and social security.

5. To reaffirm all states’ rights and responsibilities to protect, in accordance with relevant laws and regulations, their information space and critical information infrastructure from threats, disturbance, attack and sabotage. To fully respect the rights and freedom in information space, including rights and freedom of searching for, acquiring and disseminating information on the premise of complying with relevant national laws and regulations.

6. To promote the establishment of a multilateral, transparent, and democratic international management of the Internet to ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all, and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet.

7. To lead all elements of society, including its information and communication private sectors, to understand their roles and responsibilities with regard to information security, in order to facilitate the creation of a culture of information security and the protection of critical information infrastructures.

8. To assist developing countries in their efforts to enhance capacity-building on information security and to close the digital divide.

9. To bolster bilateral, regional, and international cooperation, promote the United Nations’ important role in formulation of international norms, peaceful settlement of international disputes, and improvement of international cooperation in the field of information security, and enhance coordination among relevant international organizations.

10. To settle any dispute resulting from the application of this Code through peaceful means and refrain from the threat or use of force.