

Second IGF 2025 Open Consultations

14 April 2025

[Transcript] Statement from UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute – UNICRI

Thanks to the Chair and IGF organizers and all stakeholders present today. We are very grateful for this opportunity to contribute to today's discussion. We highly commend IGF's work and strongly believe in the importance of this year's theme of building digital governance together.

Within our mandate, we strive to do so and to contribute to the entire internet community through two main work streams. Our Center for AI and Robotics is taking a leading role in global discussions on the use of AI in law enforcement and in promoting responsible AI development. Building on the AI Toolkit, in collaboration with Interpol, we launched AI Pool, a project aimed at supporting the global law enforcement community in its journey toward responsible AI innovation.

Through the second work stream, we explore solutions to the growing trends in cybercrime and online harms posed by a range of malicious actors, with a focus on terrorist and violent extremist groups. Specifically, on cybercrime, UNICRI has examined challenges in investigations and access to justice for cybercrime victims in four selected African countries. This is intended as snapshot research, with the aim of expanding it in the future. Based on this research, we plan to develop technical assistance for Member States and relevant stakeholders, for instance to update cybercrime legislation, strengthen law enforcement and judicial capabilities, and raise public awareness through gender-sensitive approaches.

Another work area we are focusing on is the abuse of digital technologies by bio-extremist groups in South America, Africa and Asia, specifically the intersection of gaming and bio-extremism. What we have seen is that the growth of harmful content online poses risks to the digital security of marginalized groups, and it has become increasingly complicated to discern the diverse nature of online harms, as there is growing evidence of overlapping manifestations of terrorist content with disinformation and cybercrime. For this reason, we aim to collectively explore alternative threat intelligence methodologies and community-driven approaches to content moderation.

We very much look forward to collaborating with IGF stakeholders on these topics, particularly community-driven content moderation and support to cybercrime victims. We want to follow a bottom-up approach and are eager to receive insights on this topic from different experts.

We believe that collaboration remains essential to building an open, resilient, secure and sustainable internet. We look forward to working with you all. Thank you very much for your time and attention today.