

BPF Cybersecurity Update - Bringing it all together IGF 2019

(29 November 2019)

In 2018, the Best Practices Forum on Cybersecurity set the stage for this year's work by taking a multistakeholder look at norms development spaces.

This year, we built on this by identifying 19 cybersecurity agreements, and best practices that signatories implement to further their ideals. Key agreements included were the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, the UNGGE 2015 consensus report and the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.

We reviewed these agreements to see if they included key provisions, such as references to Human Rights, further the multi-stakeholder model or recommend technical initiatives such as responsible disclosure. In July, we published a paper that explores this world, from non-binding norms to legal instruments.

We issued a Call for Contributions, and gained input in meetings. We also brought six experts together here in Berlin to explore "norms implementation" at a deeper level.

During these conversations, we identified a few key learnings:

1. In our context, norms are collective expectations for what we see as proper behavior for an identifiable group. When organizations need to hide their behavior, it is often a good indication a norm may exist and is being violated. We also identified a second approach to norms development: identifying a behavior we aspire to and widely support, and then investing to implement it as a norm.
2. Despite the growth in norms initiatives there are areas of agreement and convergence. A number of initiatives have started to map these areas and we can consider them as a starting point for cooperation. There is also a need to share challenges to norms implementation.
3. We can learn from technical norms that are easier to measure and apply those lessons to less tractable problems. A promising example is the Mutually Agreed Norms for Routing Security, or MANRS.
4. During the IGF, there was a proposed approach to scrutinize norms implementation through case studies of historical events. Through the lens of practical experience, the effectiveness of norms can be evaluated.
5. A relatively small number of agreements we sampled were developed within clear multi-stakeholder spaces. A larger number are defined by a single stakeholder group.

Several ideas were discussed to help make these processes better, including:

- a. Building networks, such as Communities of Interest, as proposed by the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, where stakeholders can cooperate on implementation;

- b. More multi-stakeholder engagement in the design of norms - stakeholders are often invited near the end, which is too late to ensure they can be implemented.
- c. While discussing norms assessment, it became clear that Civil Society has taken a leading role in assessing adherence. Others can build on this.

To summarize, we believe there are beginnings of consensus expectations in this space, identified across agreements, that we can all build on - **but those require the creativity that only truly multi-stakeholder and multi-disciplinary collaboration can bring to the table.** As part of our work this year, we will also bring our learnings to the intersessional meeting of the Open Ended Working Group in New York next week.

Thank you very much.