IGF 2021 WS #___Cyber capacity building – not just a technical issue

About this Session:

This workshop aims to bring together stakeholders from different regions to discuss the recommendations of the "UN Open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" regarding cyber capacity building in a multilateral context and explore how they can be implemented. The participants who have different backgrounds will share their views on cyber capacity building and will present what roles different actors can play in developing capacity.

Organizer 1: John Reyels, Head of the Cyber Foreign Policy and Cyber Security Coordination Staff, Federal Foreign Office Germany, Berlin, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Organizer 2: tbc, (Ghana), African Group

Speaker 1: Dr. Regine Grienberger, German Cyber Ambassador, Federal Foreign Office Germany, Berlin, Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Speaker 2: tbc (speaker from Ghana), Government, African Group

Speaker 3: tbd, Civil Society (z.B. Access Now?), African Group

Speaker 4: tbc, EU CyberNet, Eastern European Group

Additional Speakers:

Tbd, Private Sector, Technical Community, UN

Tbd, Asia Pacific Group, Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Moderator: Tbd

Format:

Round Table - 90 Min

Policy Question(s):

- What are the outcomes of the "Open-ended working group on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" regarding cyber capacity building and what role will they play for the topic in the future?
- What is the respective understanding of cyber capacity building? Which issues does cyber capacity building cover beyond technical aspects?
- What role does cyber capacity building play in the regions and how could we improve the cooperation?

Issues, Challenges and Opportunities addressed:

Not only the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the cyberspace is increasingly affected by threats and challenges. We therefore need to improve our cooperation and coordination on capacity building. The OEWG report recommends the following:

Process and Purpose

Capacity-building should be a sustainable process, comprising specific activities by and for different actors.

Specific activities should have a clear purpose and be results focused, while supporting the shared objective of an open, secure, stable, accessible and peaceful ICT environment.

Capacity-building activities should be evidence-based, politically neutral, transparent, accountable, and without conditions.

Capacity-building should be undertaken with full respect for the principle of State sovereignty.

Access to relevant technologies may need to be facilitated.

Partnerships

Capacity-building should be based on mutual trust, demand-driven, correspond to nationally identified needs and priorities, and be undertaken in full recognition of national ownership. Partners in capacity-building participate voluntarily.

As capacity-building activities should be tailored to specific needs and contexts, all parties are active partners with shared but differentiated responsibilities, including to collaborate in the design, execution and monitoring and evaluation of capacity-building activities.

The confidentiality of national policies and plans should be protected and respected by all partners.

People

Capacity-building should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, be gender sensitive and inclusive, universal and non-discriminatory.

The confidentiality of sensitive information should be ensured.

States concluded that capacity-building is a reciprocal endeavour, a so-called "two-way street", in which participants learn from each other and where all sides benefit from the general improvement to global ICT security. The value of South–South, South–North, triangular, and regionally focused cooperation was also recalled."

During our session we will discuss the recommendations and will also exchange best-practice examples.

Description:

Fragility and the lack of security in cyberspace is a huge threat to all regions of the world. The cyberspace needs to be open, free, stable and secure for everyone. We therefore need to increase cyber capacity building but also avoid duplication. Countries in the process of developing their ICT infrastructures can lack resources and capabilities to address security and resilience issues. It is not

only in the interest of the respective country to increase cybersecurity capacity, but building capacities and confidence across the world is crucial.

In the first part of the session the moderator will set the scene and each of the speakers will contribute from their specific stakeholder perspective as researchers, government, civil society and private sector representatives. Then the floor will be opened to the audience. This workshop is intended to be 90 min.

Expected Outcomes:

This discussion would make an important contribution to the current CCB discussion by helping to better understand the OEWG recommendations on CCB, providing attending representatives from various sectors and less developed regions with already existing innovate ideas and tools and hence reduce duplication as well as shifting the focus to underrepresented regions. Based on this preliminary analysis, further discussions on interregional cooperation can be continued in different fora. Furthermore, it contributes to the debate on how to strengthen an open, free, stable and secure cyber space.

Relevance to Internet Governance:

This session will support the very notion of the Forum by bringing together a wide range of stakeholders in the international community, with a particular focus on less developed regions, and hence, support underrepresented stakeholders to contribute to this important exchange.

Discussion Facilitation:

In the first part of the session the moderator will set the scene and each of the speakers will contribute from their specific stakeholder perspective as researchers, government, civil society and private sector representatives. Then the floor will be opened to the audience. This workshop is intended to be 90 min.