Outline proposal EU Open Forum on "conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace"

The Internet that has brought global social-wellbeing, prosperity and economic growth is today threatened by the increased ability and willingness of actors to pursue their objectives by undertaking malicious cyber activities. The EU stresses the importance of a global, open, free, stable and secure cyberspace where human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law fully apply.

Over the years, cyber issues in the context of international security have been discussed in a number of international fora. In order to increase stability the EU and its Member States promote the establishment of a strategic framework for conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace that is based on the application of existing international law, and in particular of the UN Charter in its entirety, the implementation of universal norms of responsible State behaviour, and promotion of regional confidence building measures between States. Furthermore the EU and its Member States make great efforts to increase cyber resilience through capacity building within and outside the EU.

The multi-stakeholder community is looking ahead to further discussions on responsible normative behaviour in cyberspace. Over the recent years several private-sector led initiatives on cybersecurity have been launched already, and various stakeholders have shown their commitment to share responsibility and contribute in their respective roles to the advancement of security and stability in cyberspace. The EU recognizes that the interconnected and complex nature of cyberspace requires joint efforts by governments, private sector, civil society, technical community, users and academia to address the challenges faced and calls on these stakeholders to recognize and take their specific responsibilities to maintain an open, free, secure and stable cyberspace.

In the context of the upcoming work in the UN in the context of the open-ended working group (OEWG) (A/RES/73/27) and the UNGGE (A/RES/73/266), as well as the broader stakeholder engagement on security and stability in cyberspace, the EU intends to organize an Open Forum at the upcoming IGF in Berlin on the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders in promoting "conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace". This Open Forum will address the need for responsible normative behaviour by all stakeholders and should provide an outlook to further cooperation on the implementation of such behaviour within the mandates of each respective community.

Different speakers are to contribute to an interactive panel discussion. Speakers are to be confirmed but we are aiming to have a speaker coming from each community, i.e. governments, private sector, civil society, technical community and academia. These various perspectives should provide an overall reflection on what it means to contribute to "conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace" and what activities should be undertaken within the responsibility of each stakeholder to further contribute to this objective.