



“Advancing Cyber Stability: Developments and Challenges”

12 December 2022

The United Nations Member States are engaged in a series of discussions on how to achieve greater stability and security in the cyber domain. The digital sphere will still drive economic growth and social progress globally, but is also perceived as a battleground for strategic competition. During the last decade, the diplomatic community has worked intensively to establish rules of the road in cyberspace, as well as to promote cooperation at global, regional, and national level.

In the United Nations First Committee, two distinct processes in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security have taken place: The Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) and the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). The successive GGEs have developed norms of responsible state behavior in cyberspace, affirmed the applicability of international law, as well as stressed the key role of confidence- and capacity-building measures. The OEWG in 2019–2021 has confirmed that these four elements provide guidance for state behavior in cyberspace, and the discussions within the new OEWG established in 2021 will follow the same template.

Nevertheless, not all States adhere to the agreed-upon cyber norms, exemplified by various incidents around the world. It is imperative that the UN takes further steps to implement the framework for responsible state behavior. The new UN initiative “Programme of Action” (PoA) will add an extra layer of operationalization to the existing achievements within the GGE and the OEWG, putting the current consensus into practice. A bottom-up approach of the PoA will assist to advance the application of international law as well as to follow the norms for responsible state behavior and confidence-building measures. It is expected that the PoA will further increase cyber stability and resilience at the global level. Gaps in cyber capacity present a key challenge for many global partners. Improving technical and organizational cyber capacity of States will help to observe norms and international law in cyberspace. It remains a priority that requires efforts from all stakeholders – governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.

It is especially important to note the universal agreement of all UN Member States that state behavior in cyberspace is guided by the existing international law. This shared commitment is central for preventing conflict and maintaining international peace, security, and stability. International law is the bedrock of the responsible state behavior in cyberspace. The 2021 GGE report highlights that continued discussion and exchanges of national views on how specific rules and principles of international law apply to the use of ICTs by States is necessary. Thereby, common understanding can be deepened, misunderstandings avoided and predictability and stability increased.

The upcoming event “Advancing Cyber Stability: Developments and Challenges” will address questions on how to accelerate the implementation of norms and raise awareness on the principles of international law central to state behavior in cyberspace. What are the key requirements in achieving cyber resilience and how to fill the gaps in cyber capacity-building efforts? How could the proposed PoA assist in achieving more stability and resilience globally?



The discussion will take place in **Room XXVI, Palais des Nations of the United Nations Office in Geneva**, on 12 December from 15:00 to 17:00, followed by coffee and snacks. All participants are invited to register at mission.un@mfa.ee. Participants without a UNOG identification badge are also requested to register in [Indico](#).

Agenda

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| 15:00 – 15:10 | Keynote

H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber
Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva |
| 15:10 – 15:30 | High-level Interventions

H.E. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah
Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations in Geneva

H.E. Dr. Regine Grienberger, Ambassador for Cyber Foreign Policy
German Federal Foreign Office |
| 15:30 – 16:50 | Panel Discussion: Implementation of Norms of Responsible State Behavior and International Law in Cyberspace

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Dr. Regine Grienberger, Ambassador for Cyber Foreign Policy
German Federal Foreign Office- Mr. Léonard Rolland, Head of Cyber Unit
French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs- Dr. Kubo Mačák, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)- Dr. Tereza Horejsova, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)- Mr. Stéphane Duguin, CyberPeace Institute <p>The discussion will be moderated by Heli Tiirmaa-Klaar, Digital Society Institute.</p> |
| 16:50 – 17:00 | Closing Remarks

H.E. Mrs. Katrin Saarsalu-Layachi
Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations in Geneva |
| 17:00 – 17:30 | Coffee & Snacks |



H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber

Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Geneva

H.E. Mr. Jürg Lauber has been the Permanent Representative of Switzerland since 2000. From 2015 to 2020, he served as Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. Previously, he has served as head of the United Nations and International Organizations Division in Bern and as Deputy Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva as well as to the Conference on Disarmament. Between 2007 and 2009 he served as *chef de cabinet* to the President of the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands. Before joining the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in 1993 he worked in peacekeeping missions in Namibia (UNTAG) and Korea (Panmunjom). Mr. Lauber has a law degree from the University of Zurich.



H.E. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah

Permanent Representative of The Gambia to the United Nations in Geneva

H.E. Prof. Muhammadou M.O. Kah has held teaching and leadership positions in the United States, Africa, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe. He is the current Vice President (Africa) for the United Nations Human Rights Council and the Vice Chairman for the 25th session of UNCTAD's Commission on Science and Technology Development. Prof. Kah completed his BSc, MSc and Ph.D. at the Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken, United States. He was awarded a Doctor of Science by the University of The Gambia. He also has a Master of Science in Finance degree from George Washington University, and a postgraduate diploma in strategy and innovation from the University of Oxford.



H.E. Dr. Regine Grienberger

Ambassador for Cyber Foreign Policy, German Federal Foreign Office

H.E. Dr. Regine Grienberger is the Director for Cyber Foreign and Security Policy at the Federal Foreign Office. Her previous professional experience was chiefly in the field of EU foreign policy as well as EU financial and economic policy. Dr. Grienberger was Deputy Head of the Minister's Office, Deputy Head of Division for European economic and financial policy and desk officer for EU Agricultural Policy, with responsibility for crisis management in pandemics, among other areas. Her tasks also included EU public relations and the EU's external relations with countries of the Western Balkans. She was Head of the Political Section at the German Embassy in Rome and culture, press and protocol attaché at the German Embassy in Ljubljana. Dr Grienberger studied agriculture in Bonn, Munich, Vienna and Michigan State University, obtaining her doctorate in Bonn.



Dr. Kubo Mačák

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Dr. Kubo Mačák is a Legal Adviser in the Legal Division of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), assigned jointly to the Arms and Conduct of Hostilities Unit and the Commentaries Unit. Prior to joining the ICRC in 2019, he worked as an Associate Professor at the University of Exeter in the UK. Dr. Mačák is the author of the book *Internationalized Armed Conflicts in International Law* and of multiple articles in peer-reviewed journals including the *International Review of the Red Cross*, the *Journal of Cyber Policy*, and the *Journal of Conflict and Security Law*. He is also the General Editor of the *Cyber Law Toolkit*, an interactive online resource on the international law of cyber operations.



Dr. Tereza Horejsova

Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)

Dr. Tereza Horejsova has had an international career in academia and the non-profit sector in the Czech Republic, the UAE, the USA, and Switzerland. Before joining the GFCE, she was director of partnerships at DiploFoundation. She holds MA in International Studies and PhD in European Studies. Dr. Horejsova has worked on several capacity building activities in the field of digital policy and is an advocate of bringing practical considerations of capacity building into the discussion. She is chair of the GFCE Working Group on Cyber Security Culture and Skills, and a member of the Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group.



Mr. Stéphane Duguin

CyberPeace Institute

Mr. Stéphane Duguin has spent two decades analysing how technology is weaponized against vulnerable communities. He leads the CyberPeace Institute with the aim of holding malicious actors to account for the harms they cause. His mission is to coordinate a collective response to decrease the frequency, impact, and scale of cyberattacks by criminal groups and state actors, and achieve cyber peace. Mr. Duguin sits on the Board of the Datasphere Initiative and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Global Forum on Cybercrime Expertise (GFCE). Prior to this position, Mr. Duguin was a Senior Manager at Europol. He led key operational projects to counter both cybercrime and online terrorism, such as the European Cybercrime Centre (EC3), the Europol Innovation Lab, and the European Internet Referral Unit (EU IRU).