

Defining an Expanded Role for the Private Sector and Civil Society in cyber Norms  
Implementation and Capacity Building  
Proposal to the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade  
January 27, 2020

Defining the role of the private sector, civil society and the academic community in promoting a stable online environment will be one of the challenges for the ongoing Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) and Group of Governmental Experts (GGE). Australia can usefully provide guidance on these topics in its contributions to the reports and annex. This project would review what role the private sector and civil society could play to implement agreed norms and confidence building measure (CBMs), as well as improve coordination of capacity building efforts. It would be based on interviews with key private sector and civil society actors (such as the Internet Governance Forum, the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, and others) on their expectations and incentives for norms implementation and a coordinated approach to capacity building.

These topics reflect how the negotiating landscape for cybersecurity has changed since the 2010 GGE reached consensus. The most significant change is the expanded role of the private sector and civil society. This indicates both a larger awareness of the importance of cybersecurity and the need in this new domain for governments, private sector and civil society to work together. The result is a willingness among many (but not all) states to see a broadening of discussion beyond the traditional government participants and involve a range of non-state actors.

Both 2013 and 2015 GGE Reports called for greater involvement by the private sector and civil society, but not much work has been done in the UN context to expand these GGE recommendations. While there are many "multistakeholder" efforts, they are not always coordinated and, in some instances, not always practical.

There are some responsibilities where states must play the lead role, primarily in public safety, justice, and national security. However, to exercise these responsibilities, states need to develop new partnerships and mechanisms to engage the private sector and civil society. This is an area where Australian guidance to the OEWG and GGE could provide useful recommendation and, perhaps, suggest new mechanisms for bringing different communities together.

Using interviews with relevant private sector and civil society entities, this study would define possible mechanisms to expand participation and identify opportunities for implementable contributions that private sector and civil society actors could make to promote the development of responsible behavior in cyberspace. It would:

- Identify where companies and civil society can contribute to norms implementation, and how to structure these contribution in the UN system (and "adjacent" to it).
- Make practical recommendations on how governments, companies and civil society, can contribute to a more coordinated approach to capacity building as part of larger work on norms implementation to promote a peaceful and stable online environment.

- Discuss how to expand participation by the private sector at the international level.
- Define possible "roadmaps" for future work to involve the private sector and civil society.

The product would be a written report providing interview results and recommendations. Timing and length would be determined by DFAT guidance.

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