



Australian Government
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PRESS RELEASE

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CYBERSPACE FELLOWSHIP

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The Permanent Missions to the United Nations of the Governments of Australia, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United Kingdom are pleased to announce the Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship.

The Fellowship promotes greater participation by women in discussion at the United Nations (UN) on international security issues related to responsible state behaviour in cyberspace, including at the UN Open Ended Working Group on the use of ICTs in the context of International Security (OEWG).

Aimed at early to mid-career female diplomats, the Fellowship will be opened by UN Under-Secretary-General Izumi Nakamitsu on the 5th of February.

In addition to joining their national delegations to the OEWG, fellows will receive training from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on multilateral negotiations, participate in an introduction to issues relevant to international security in cyberspace, and receive mentoring from senior colleagues working on these issues at the UN in New York.

A factsheet on the Fellowship is **attached**.

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FACT SHEET

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CYBERSPACE FELLOWSHIP

What is the Fellowship?

The Women in International Security and Cyberspace Fellowship is a joint initiative of the governments of Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, the Netherlands and New Zealand. It promotes greater participation by women in discussion at the United Nations (UN) on international security issues related to responsible state behaviour in cyberspace. The Fellowship supports travel to New York to attend second and third meetings of the UN Open Ended Working Group on the use of ICTs in the context of International Security (OEWG), as well as to participate in UN negotiation training, a workshop on UN cyber issues, and mentoring events matching fellows with senior colleagues currently working on these issues at the UN in New York.

Why do we need the Fellowship?

As recognised by the Women, Peace and Security agenda, women are differently and uniquely affected by conflict and threats to international peace and security. They also bring unique perspectives and contributions to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. 'Still Behind the Curve', a report by United Nations Institute for Disarmament Affairs (UNIDIR) on gender balance in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament diplomacy, found that the UN First Committee (under which the OEWG is convened) has the lowest proportion of female diplomats of any of the UN General Assembly's Main Committees. In addition, while estimates vary, women represent less than 25 per cent of the cyber security workforce. Combined, this highlights the need to ensure women are empowered to participate in the OEWG and in future discussions on responsible state behaviour in cyberspace at the UN.

Who are the fellows?

The 35 fellows represent countries from ASEAN, Pacific, South America and Commonwealth countries.

What is the OEWG?

The OEWG was established pursuant to UN Resolution 73/27. The mandate of the group is to consider norms rules and principles of responsible behaviour by states in cyberspace. All UN Member States are invited to participate. The first meeting was in September 2019. It will convene again formally in February and July 2020, with intersession meetings between the formal meetings. The OEWG will submit its final report to General Assembly in September/October 2020.