UN and ICT4Peace launch project to counter use of ICTs for terrorist purposes in cooperation with the private sector

Since the late 1990s, terrorist groups have become more sophisticated in their use of the internet and ICT. In the wake of the terrorist attacks of 9/11, extremist groups came under increasing pressure to go underground, finding in the internet an ideal channel through which it could continue communications while reaching out to a larger audience, and as a means to seek finance for its activities.

Confronted with the growing threat posed by the Islamic State (IS), concerns regarding terrorist use of ICT and the internet further increased, due in large part to IS’ adeptness in using the technologies and related platforms to groom and recruit foreign fighters and supporters, produce and disseminate propaganda. Such concerns were tabled in the UN Security Council, which urges UN Member States to act cooperatively when taking national measures to prevent terrorists from exploiting technology, communications and resources, including audio and video, to incite support for terrorist acts, while respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms and in compliance with other obligations under international law. Security Council activity on these matters has increased even further since the Paris attacks of November 2015.

These developments have important implications for the private sector, in particular those companies whose products and services are exploited to advance the goals of terrorist actors. This reality has led to greater engagement by states of the private sector in efforts to combat...
terrorist use of ICTs, including the creation of public-private partnerships specifically aimed at dealing with the issue. It has also led to the emergence of new practices or norms of self-regulation by companies. New norms and coercive measures such as sanctions aimed at preventing the sale, distribution and use of IT products and services to terrorist groups also bring with them new obligations, with obvious implications for industry.

The cooperation of UN CTED and ICT4Peace has been to deepen the understanding of these developments, particularly how industry is responding to terrorist use of ICTs, identify good practices, notably in the area of self-regulation, and potentially engage industry representatives in shaping a voluntary trust building mechanism such as a code of conduct to help mitigate the use of ICT products and services by terrorist groups. The first meeting to discuss potential cooperation between Governments and Private Sectors was held on 16 and 17 December 2015 at the UN in New York, was organised by the UN CTED in cooperation with and moderated by ICT4Peace (see post [here](#)).


Read more [here](#).

### Countering Violent Extremism & Mobile Advocacy in Myanmar

Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor at the ICT4Peace Foundation, was invited to take part in Tech Camp 2016, held at Phandeeyar, where he talked about and trained on mobile advocacy and activism strategies. Calling on the work engineered in Sri Lanka around election monitoring, civil society mobilisation, voter education and civic media, Sanjana talked about how mobiles were used to bear witness to violence, promote democratic debate, dissent and also foster interest in voting.

Read more [here](#).

### Political and Humanitarian Crisis in Burundi: Launch of

Read more [here](#).
ETH Professor (em.) Kurt R. Spillmann joins ICT4Peace International Advisory Board

The ICT4Peace Foundation is deeply honoured, that former ETH Professor Kurt R. Spillmann has kindly agreed to join its International Advisory Board. Professor Spillmann is a world renowned and eminent scholar and internationally solicited political commentator on world affairs, in particular on peace and security.

Read more [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4061).

**ICT4Peace Wiki**

The ICT4Peace Foundation is pleased to publicly release its new wiki on the crisis in Burundi.

Curated by Sanjana Hattotuwa, Special Advisor at the Foundation, the wiki is meant to alert and raise awareness on the ongoing tragic political and humanitarian crisis in Burundi and provide timely, meaningful and urgently needed information for policymakers and decision makers as well as practitioners from Governments, International Organisations, civil society, business and media.

Read more [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4061).

**UN General Assembly’s World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) Review fails to address the need for peace in cyberspace**

On December 16, 2015 the UN General Assembly issued an outcome document for its review of implementation of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). WSIS, which was the international community’s initial effort
at articulating its vision for a society driven by information and communications technology (ICT), concluded its final phase in 2005. The current meeting therefore represented the views of UN member states on what the last decade of follow-up of WSIS signified for the health of the “information society” and its future prospects.

Read more [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007).

**Second Protection Information Management (PIM) meeting, led by UNHCR**

Having participated remotely in the first Protection Information Management (PIM) meeting held in May 2015, and subsequently given input to working documents that captured the discussions at the meeting, ICT4Peace Foundation’s Sanjana Hattotuwa was invited by UNHCR and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) to attend the second PIM meeting, held in Geneva from 2 – 4 December. [http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007)

Read more [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007).

ICT4Peace Lecture at the Executive School of Management, Technology and Law, University of St. Gallen

ICT4Peace’s Daniel Stauffacher was invited by Dr. Daniel Woker, Ambassador-in-Residence at the Executive School of Management, Technology and Law (ES-HSG) of the University of St.Gallen to give a lecture on the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for Crisis Management, Peacebuilding and Protection of Human Dignity.

Read more [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007).

**First of its kind workshop on ICTs and Constitution Building**

The ICT4Peace Foundation, in collaboration with International IDEA and Google Ideas, curated the first of its kind workshop on technology and constitutional building processes at the National Constitution Centre in Philadelphia, on Monday, 16 November 2015.

The concept note to the workshop can be read [here](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007).

As noted on the [event webpage](http://ict4peace.org/?p=4007), the making of a Constitution is one of the most difficult processes a nation can embark on. As well as critical political hurdles of reaching agreement among
ICT4Peace at the International Information Security Research Consortium Conference in Seoul, Korea

The ICT4Peace Foundation was invited to participate in the 12th International Information Security Research Consortium Conference (IISRC Conference), which was hosted by the Korea University Law School on 2 and 3 November 2015 in Seoul, Korea. His presentation at the Conference can be found here.

There topics on the agenda were: 1. State sovereignty and state boundary in cyberspace; 2. Theater of military operations in cyberspace. The concept of “neutrality” and neutral states in cyberspace; 3. Identification and marking of objects in cyberspace that are protected by international humanitarian law; 4. Critical infrastructure objects in cyberspace & international law; 5. The scope of distinction, proportionality and precaution principles within cyberwarfare; 6. The concepts of “combatant” and “non-combatants” in relation to armed conflict in cyberspace.

Read more here.

Social Media, Hate Speech & Elections

Lessons for Myanmar?

Sanjana Hattotuwa
TED Fellow alumni, ICT4Peace Foundation

Hate speech, elections and social media: Presentation for MIMU in Yangon, Myanmar

At the invitation of the Myanmar
Information Management Unit (MIMU), Sanjana Hattotuwa conducted an information presentation on hate and dangerous speech monitoring plus counter-speech strategies, as well as social media strategies during and in response to elections. Both were based on his experience in the strategic design of content and deployment of social media apps, services and platforms against hate speech as well as in the service of election monitoring and voter education.

Read more [here](#).

ICT4Peace at Swiss Business Association Singapore on Cybersecurity as an international challenge for States and Companies

ICT4Peace’s Daniel Stauffacher was invited by the Swiss Business Association Singapore to give a presentation on the Cyber-war-threat as an international challenge for states and companies.

Read more [here](#).

ICT4Peace Baseline Review published in Chinese Language

ICT4Peace is honoured to announce that its acclaimed paper BASELINE REVIEW of ICT-RELATED PROCESSES & EVENTS has
been published in the Chinese language as part of its cooperation with the China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR), Beijing.

At the 2013 Seoul Conference on Cyberspace, the ICT4Peace Foundation hosted a side-meeting during which strong emphasis was placed on ensuring greater inclusivity with regard to on-going and emerging cyber security-related processes, including with regard to ensuring greater regional participation in related discussions and debate, and greater involvement of civil society, industry and academia (as per the UN GGE reports). ICT4Peace Foundation’s related plenary Statement reiterated these views, committing itself to ensuring that information on the different processes reaches a broader geographical audience and establishing means to report these views to government. The release of the baseline review report in Chinese language ia now a further step in this direction. The translation into Spanish is planned.

Read more here.
ICT4Peace took root with pioneering research on the role of ICTs in preventing, responding to and recovering from conflict in 2003 and lead to the adoption of Paragraph 36 by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis in 2005 which recognises “…the potential of ICTs to promote peace and to prevent conflict which, inter alia, negatively affects achieving development goals. ICTs can be used for identifying conflict situations through early-warning systems preventing conflicts, promoting their peaceful resolution, supporting humanitarian action, including protection of civilians in armed conflicts, facilitating peacekeeping missions, and assisting post conflict peace-building and reconstruction.”

The ICT4Peace Foundation works to promote the practical realisation of Paragraph 36 and looks at the role of ICT in crisis management, covering aspects of early warning and conflict prevention, peace mediation, peacekeeping, peace-building as well as natural disaster management and humanitarian operations.

Download a report on the use of Information and Communications Technologies for peacebuilding (ICT4Peace), with a Preface by Kofi A. Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations here. An updated version of this report, with critical analysis on current policies and practices of ICTs in peacebuilding and crises was published in early 2011. Published in collaboration with the Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard University and GeorgiaTech, Peacebuilding in the Information Age: Sifting Hype from Reality can be read here.