



“Introductory Remarks by Dr. Daniel Stauffacher, Moderator of Session III of the UN Cybersecurity Conference, Beijing, China July 11-12, 2016”

Our session’s theme is international cooperation and the need to promote it. We should always keep in mind that the Internet represents one of the greatest achievements of international cooperation in the history of humanity. This cooperation has to be constantly renewed and sustained if we are going to continue to enjoy the immense benefits of cyberspace.

As the President of ICT4Peace, you will not be surprised to hear me state that a prime condition for international cooperation in cyberspace is to maintain it as a realm for peaceful activity. Not enough is being done to promote “cyber peace” as an alternative to the “cyber war” that some seem keen to launch. Cyberspace is however an environment where irresponsible action by one can have damaging consequences for many.

As multi-stakeholders in cyberspace we need to stress the importance of conflict prevention. ICT4Peace has focused on the imperative to prevent conflict in cyberspace and to harness information and communication technologies to the UN’s goals of peace and security and sustainable development. Conflict prevention and the peaceful settlement of disputes is also relevant to the civilian sphere of cyberspace. Developing equitable and efficient mechanisms for the orderly settlement of disputes in a rules-based system will be important for making progress in the complex area of Internet Governance. To encourage stakeholders to cooperate with one another, there should be an enabling environment that can also fairly resolve the inevitable disputes that will arise.

International cooperation is not an abstract generality that operates in isolation from the efforts of individual stakeholders. We are fortunate to have on this panel representatives of several major actors (and stakeholders) : ICANN, ITU, DESA of UN Secretariat and two leading states in cyberspace (China and Japan). I will ask each one of them to provide two to three top priorities, from their respective vantage points, for advancing international cooperation in cyberspace. I hope their suggestions, on which I would encourage them to be as specific as possible, will provide us with a menu of practical proposals that we can reflect on and evaluate. I would then intend to reach out to our audience to gather reactions to these ideas. In this way we should be able to provide some real content to our lofty theme of international cooperation and how best to promote it.

Thank you.