Open Consultation on UN GGE 2015 Norm Proposals

Call for commentary and implementation guidelines on norms proposed in UN GGE 2015 report. The first phase of consultations has been completed and we are now opening and widening our consultations to include all interested parties and targeted experts from think thanks, academia and corporations.

Leiden University's Program for Cyber Norms, a research platform to investigate the development and implementation of law and policy applicable to uses of ICTs, invites you to participate in a global open consultation on how to implement the UN Group of Governmental Experts' (GGE) recommendations on responsible State behavior in cyberspace.

Partner in these consultations is the ICT4Peace Foundation, a policy and action-oriented international foundation whose purpose is to save lives and protect human dignity through Information and Communication Technology. Promoting cybersecurity and a peaceful cyberspace through international negotiations with governments, companies and non-state actors is part of their work.

We seek to enhance and support the work of the GGE, by conducting wider academic and expert consultations on norms and ways of their implementation. Consultations on the UN GGE 2015 report (U.N. Doc. A/70/174, July 22, 2015) will be conducted throughout the summer, with the view to publish a thorough and balanced commentary together with guidelines for implementation in the early fall of this year. Please see our annexed timeline for more information regarding our consultations.

We invite recommendations, comments, and guidance from academia, civil society, the corporate world as well as public administration. We are keen to receive views on whether the proposed norms can be considered distinct, relevant and justified. Additionally, we are looking forward to further recommendations on responsible behavior in international cyber security.

In creating our commentary, editorial working groups are formed on each of the 11 voluntary non-binding norms proposed in paragraph 13 of the UN GGE 2015 report. In addition to comments and contributions, we welcome participation in one or several of these editorial working groups creating the final implementation guidelines and commentary. An overview of the norms and their respective working groups is listed on our website, accompanied by selected commentary collected in the first phase of our consultations.

Please contact us if you have any questions pertaining to the program and this specific initiative, or if you have an interest to be involved.

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http://thehaguecybernorms.org

ANNEX

Timeline

1st phase: consultations with academic experts linked to the work of the UN GGE (Completed)
Timeframe: June 2016-June 2017

Conducted with, among others: Dr. Anatoly Streltsov, Professor, Information Security Institute, Moscow State University; Dr. Nohyoung Park, Professor of Law of the College of Law, Korea University; and Dr. Mika Kerttunen, Docent, Finnish National Defence University, and Director of Studies, Cyber Policy Institute.

2nd phase: consultations with all interested parties and targeted experts
Timeframe: June 2017-September 2017

Leading think thanks, academia and corporations are approached. Conducted in partnership with Daniel Stauffacher, President of the ICT4Peace Foundation.

3rd phase: editorial interest-based working groups
Timeframe: July 2017-October 2017

Conducted in partnership with the ICT4Peace Foundation.

Workshop
Timeframe: October 2017

Publish Commentary and Guidelines
Timeframe: October 2017

Publish a thorough and balanced commentary together with guidelines for implementation of UN GGE norms.

Background

For two decades, negotiations of a possible cyber security framework have been discussed behind closed doors under the auspices of the UN Disarmament and International Security Committee. Five consecutive Groups of Governmental Experts (UN GGE) on *Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security* have worked to settle standards of responsible State behavior in cyberspace, amidst strategic contestation in and around the cyber domain.

Paragraph 13 of the UN GGE 2015 report (U.N. Doc. A/70/174, July 22, 2015) proposes 11 voluntary non-binding norms on responsible State behavior, related to cooperation, mutual assistance, information exchange, respect for Human Rights, integrity of the supply chain, and critical infrastructure protection (para 13). The UN General Assembly subsequently called upon Member States to "be guided in their use of information and communications technologies by the 2015 report of the Group of Governmental Experts", by adopting resolution A/RES/70/237 in December 2015

In June of this year, the fifth consecutive UN GGE concluded its negotiations without producing a consensus report. In the absence of such a report to offer guidelines on the implementation of the proposed norms contained in the 2015 report, we aim to support the UN GGE's work by conducting open consultations in order to produce a commentary with implementation guidelines that includes a wide variety of relevant views. Commentary on the work of the UN GGE is as of yet largely limited to the views of academics and experts involved with the UN GGE, and often only provided in closed chambers.