Foreword

It has been a great pleasure to work with Dr. Eneken Tikk to launch this call for comments by scholars and practitioners on the list of recommendations of responsible state behavior in cyberspace suggested in the reports of the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and how to operationalize them in practice.

Given the accelerating deterioration of international relations, including global cyber relations, it has become most urgent that international norms of responsible state behavior be adopted and adhered to by all states and non-state actors. The United Nations GGE reports have developed and suggested a very useful set of norms, that should be adopted urgently and universally, to prevent a major escalation of malicious and self-destructive cyber activities by governments and non-state actors.

ICT4Peace has been concerned with Peace and Security in the Cyberspace since its inception in 2004 in the context of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva and Tunis. While championing the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) for peaceful purposes including peace building and humanitarian operations, ICT4Peace at the same time endeavored to contribute to the maintenance of a peaceful, secure, open and trusted cyberspace, through policy research, advocacy and capacity building activities. I have been privileged to work with and be supported by such eminent scholars such as Mr. Sanjana Hattotuwa, Dr. Eneken Tikk, Dr. Camino Kavanagh, Dr. Mika Kerttunen, former Ambassador Paul Meyer and Barbara Weekes to mention just a few.

In response to rapidly emerging threats and risks for the cyberspace, not only by crime, hackerism and terrorism but also for strategic purposes, in June 2011 ICT4Peace called publicly for a code of conduct or norms for responsible state behavior, as well as Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for a peaceful and secure Cyberspace. I think it is safe to say, that the world community was pleased to see that key states were finally able to agree on a set of recommendations for norms and CBMs at the 2013 and 2015 reports of the United Nations GGE on cybersecurity, but also at regional fora such as the OSCE and the Asian Regional Forum. These very useful diplomatic results have to be espoused and operationalized universally by all States, big or small, be they developing or developed countries.

This publication's main objective is to support this process.

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