International Cyber Law in Practice: Interactive Toolkit

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JOINT SUBMISSION BY THE CYBER LAW TOOLKIT PROJECT PARTNERS

Your Excellency, distinguished Delegates,

We welcome the invitation by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs to submit the views of stakeholders on the landscape of information and communications technologies capacity-building programmes and initiatives within and outside the United Nations at the global and regional levels.

In the recent years, we have seen cyber operations against States' critical civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, nuclear plants, electricity grids, or water systems, which can have devastating consequences for people and vast economic and geopolitical repercussions. States thus need to understand – and comply with – the legal constraints on their conduct as well as on the conduct of State-supported actors to address and mitigate those consequences and thus promote respect for international law and responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

The <u>Cyber Law Toolkit</u> responds to this need by providing a unique interactive online capacity-building resource on international law and cyber operations. It is run by a project consortium that includes, in alphabetical order, the Czech National Cyber and Information Security Agency, the International Committee of the Red Cross, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, the University of Exeter, U.S. Naval War College, and Wuhan University.

The Toolkit is available to State representatives and other legal professionals as a self-learning and capacity-building tool. It consists of multiple components, among which the following stand out:

• 28 detailed <u>scenarios</u> on key topics where clarity on international law applicable to uses of ICTs is most needed. These include scenarios on cyber operations against medical facilities and vaccine research, on the international law implications of ransomware operations, on the protection of civilian datasets during armed conflict, and on the legal ramifications of internet shutdowns.

- A customizable overview of all available <u>national positions</u> on the application of international law to uses of ICTs. Users can search for specific countries or compare different States' views on a diverse range of topics such as sovereignty, nonintervention, due diligence, or the notion of 'attack' under international humanitarian law.
- Over 50 detailed <u>cyber incident pages</u> including the best-known ones of the recent past, including SolarWinds, Triton, WannaCry, or incidents linked to ongoing armed conflicts. All of these pages are linked back to those scenarios that discuss similar hypothetical incidents.

The Toolkit has been expressly referenced in a number of State national positions on international law in cyberspace and it has become a key reference point for governments, militaries, international organizations, and academics. It is available free of charge at cyberlaw.ccdcoe.org.

Yours sincerely,

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