
Youth for Privacy's Statement for the Seventh Session of the OEWG on ICTs

Dear Chair,

Youth for Privacy is glad to be here at the Open-ended Working Group on ICTs today. Ever since we participated in the third OEWG, our organization has sought to present youth perspectives in these conversations on making the internet safe and secure for all. For our intervention today, we seek to highlight three points.

First, the cybersecurity threats that we are discussing today are already affecting the most vulnerable, especially the youth. Young people like us might be familiar with the internet, and use it the most. Yet that also opens us to be vulnerable to ransomware, deep fakes, and other attack vectors. Just consider the case of deep fakes. For young people going to school right now, there is a real possibility that your classmates might be making deep-fake explicit images of you that are spread across group chats. These types of technologies, augmented with AI, are not limited to state-sponsored behaviors - they already affect all of us.

It is with the importance of the youth perspective that we move on to our second point. Regarding the proposed permanent mechanism for ICT security, we recommend a possible area of thematic interest - youth. It goes without saying why we as an organization called Youth for Privacy care about this topic. Having a youth-focused thematic dialogue as part of the permanent mechanism will ensure that youth perspectives are systematically reflected.

Finally, regarding capacity building, we highlight the need for educational programs that equip young people with the skills necessary to participate in and contribute to the digital economy safely and effectively. These programs should focus on cybersecurity, data privacy, and ethical considerations in the use of ICTs.

In conclusion, incorporating youth perspectives in the guiding principles for the use of ICTs is not only beneficial but essential for creating a secure, inclusive, and prosperous digital future. We urge all delegates to consider the voices of young individuals in your deliberations and to recognize their potential as partners in shaping the digital world. Thank you for your time.