

# Global Partners Digital

OEWG II Fourth session, 09 March

Stakeholder segment, 3-6 PM

- Chair, distinguished delegates. Global Partners Digital is grateful for this opportunity to address you on the topic of capacity building. We agree with the many inputs so far that have highlighted the fundamental links between capacity building and the implementation of the other elements of the acquis. For example, uneven cybersecurity capacity can present a threat in and of itself due to the nature of cyberspace which reflects a complex and interconnected ecosystem of digital technologies, as well as the co-existence of rapidly evolving technologies with the continued reality of the need to address the digital divide and build cyber resilience.
- We have heard the widespread recognition of the need to link cybersecurity with the global development agenda, including the sustainable development agenda. For example: Goal 16 is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all. In the digital age, this requires strong cybersecurity practices -which are supported by holistic governance frameworks, including for example national cybersecurity strategies that can ensure strong institutions that are effective, accountable, and inclusive. This is just one example, more focused discussion on these inter-linkages in an inclusive manner is necessary and welcome. Stakeholders also play a fundamental role in facilitating those discussions and in providing expertise.

What roles do civil society play in this regard?

- As noted previously in our interventions in this forum, civil society plays a range of roles in the implementation of capacity building efforts. We have outlined [these in a series of resources that unpacks the acquis, from a human-centric approach](#). Whether capacity building relates to the development of cybersecurity policy, incident management or cybersecurity awareness and skills, partnerships between states and the multistakeholder community including civil society is essential and so public private partnerships should not be understood narrowly, but rather incorporate an understanding of the roles that all stakeholders play.
- Civil society plays an important role in implementing the capacity building principles adopted in the OEWG's 2021 report - including those related to people (namely capacity-building should respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, be gender sensitive, inclusive, universal and non-discriminatory: ) For example: at GPD we are a member of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and have supported countries to conduct inclusive processes for [national cybersecurity strategy development](#). We also agree that it's critical that more states provide their views on how international law applies in cyberspace—and there is capacity building work related to that. To that end we have just [published a guide to support states in their provision of positions on how international law applies in cyberspace from a human rights perspective](#).
- It is not possible to do justice at the moment to the range of roles with examples with the time allocated but we'll provide a written input with further examples of the roles of civil society in capacity building and in partnerships.

#### Looking forward

- Considering all the above, it is deeply regrettable that so many stakeholders were unable to attend this session in person due to their participation being vetoed. Going forward, these discussions - including interessionals must be inclusive of all stakeholders, including through formats such as hybrid and interactive formats that promote meaningful inclusivity. The upcoming report of the OEWG could recognise the essential role of stakeholders in building capacity and recommend states ensure that the experience and expertise of stakeholders be better integrated into all areas of capacity building to operationalise the agreed framework.

Thank you for your attention.