

Courtesy translation

Contribution from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay and Uruguay

Overview of Information and Telecommunication Capacity Building Programs and Initiatives in the Context of International Security

Context:

1. As expressed by a group of Latin American countries at the July 2023 fifth substantive session of the Open-ended Working Group on Security of and in the use of Information and Telecommunications Technologies (OEWG) for the period 2021-2025, the central objective of capacity building is to ensure that all States can participate securely, effectively and meaningfully in cyberspace to take advantage of the sustainable development opportunities it offers.
2. In addition, emphasis was placed on generating tailored capacity-building efforts that take into account existing and future asymmetries with respect to the digital capacity of all countries, in order to ensure that all countries have the capacity to observe and apply the cumulative and evolving framework of responsible behavior of the States in the use of ICTs. In this regard, our countries welcome the recommendations of the second annual report on the progress made by the OEWG in relation to capacity building, this being one of the fundamental aspects of its mandate, according to General Assembly resolution 75/240.
3. The topic of capacity building in the field of information and telecommunications technologies in the context of international security has been extensively addressed in previous OEWG sessions, highlighting the importance of greater coordination in capacity building efforts, and noting that the United Nations could play a significant role in this regard.
4. Our countries recognize that capacity building is an important confidence building measure (CBM) and a cross-cutting theme across all pillars of the working group and that a comprehensive approach to capacity building in the context of ICT security is essential.
5. In line with recommendation 46 of the annual progress report, which requests the United Nations Secretariat to conduct an analysis in consultation with relevant entities to examine the landscape of global and regional capacity-building programs and initiatives, including the views of Member States, we provide below a non-exhaustive list of capacity-building programs at the regional level.
6. In this regard, the purpose of this document is to contribute to the report that the Secretariat is preparing on this matter, with the objective of promoting and facilitating further discussions in

the Working Group on ways to improve collaboration, coordination and access to the capacity building programs offered.

Regional Level:

7. Our countries emphasize the importance of regional and subregional bodies and initiatives as instances of coordination and cooperation among States. These have an important value to add to capacity building processes and initiatives as they have acquired experience in the design of training programs created especially for their members. We also urge that States in a position to do so continue to support capacity building programs, including in collaboration, where appropriate, with regional and sub-regional organizations and other stakeholders, such as the private sector, non-governmental organizations, academia, the technical community, and civil society in general. We view favorably the existing South-South and triangular cooperation initiatives among the countries of our region that complement (but do not substitute) the various cooperation frameworks available.
8. Within the framework of the Organization of American States (OAS), we highlight the Cybersecurity Program of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE), which has developed various initiatives and support programs for Member States to build technical, political and diplomatic capacities to prevent, identify, respond to and recover from cyber incidents, as well as to promote responsible behavior by States in cyberspace.
9. Notably, all CICTE programs encourage the integration of gender and diversity perspectives into cybersecurity policies and multilateral processes.
10. In this regard, we highlight the following initiatives:
 - Support programs in the development, updating and implementation of national cybersecurity strategies.
 - Capacity building programs in the establishment of National Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), tailored technical assistance, as well as training opportunities to strengthen national institutions and organizations. CICTE facilitates collaboration among these teams through the CSIRT Americas Hemispheric Network.
 - OAS/CICTE Cyberdiplomacy Training Program: Capacity building through specialized training programs for officials in charge of providing follow-up on cyberspace issues for OAS Member States.
11. Finally, we highlight the Working Group on Cooperation and Confidence Building Measures in Cyberspace, which was approved by **OAS Member States** in 2017 through resolution

CICTE/RES.1/17, which must develop a series of draft Confidence Building Measures (CBMs), in order to improve cooperation, transparency, predictability and stability, and to reduce the risks of misinterpretation, escalation and conflict that may arise from the use of ICTs. To date, the Group has agreed on 11 regional CBMs. Some of these CBMs also serve as a framework for the development of capacity building programs aimed at regional implementation of such measures.