



Intervention at the  
Fourth Substantive Session of the Opened-Ended Working Group on security of and in the  
use of information and communications technologies  
Delivered by Sean Becker, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation  
9 March 2023

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Honorable Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is Sean Becker and I am a youth activist with the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. NAPF is a non-profit, non-partisan 501c3 organization, recognized by the UN as a Peace Messenger Organization. We delivered two interventions to this working group during the intersessional meeting last December.

Chair,

Capacity building within developing states is critical to achieving a safe international cyberspace, where all states have the means to ward off cyber attacks that might otherwise have irreparable consequences for their stability. Partnerships with the private sector have proven themselves capable of playing a key role in capacity building, specifically being uniquely equipped to educate a new generation of ICT professionals to tackle the growing threat of cyber attacks.

While we recognize the roles of both the private sector and states in capacity building, it is also crucial for states to engage with youth activists and young professionals from ICTs. For example, a few hours ago, we convened a side event on Youth Engagement and Access to ICTs. At this virtual side event, we explored how youth access to ICTs can be made more equitable, how youth can be better included in policy-making decisions regarding ICTs, and how states and the private sector can collaborate to encourage youth engagement with ICTs. The international community must address these questions when determining which examples of public-private partnerships for capacity-building in the area of security and in the use of ICTs are worth emulating.

Young people are especially important for establishing responsible ICT practices, as they will be involved in future work in this field, such as assisting the development of cyber infrastructure within developing states. The growing threat of large-scale cyber attacks should act as an incentive for states and private entities to invest in the digital capabilities of our young people, through the funding of youth initiatives and programs targeted at developing relevant skills. By investing in the cyber skills of the younger generation, states and non-state actors alike will be able to secure a future that includes a safe cyberspace for all.

We urge states to not only examine the viability of establishing partnerships with large private entities, but also with young individuals like myself who are eager to play a role in addressing many of the challenges that new cyber technologies present, including those embodied by ICTs. Proper youth partnerships with states and organizations could prove a vital asset for those looking to combat future threats to our digital spaces. This body must take youth into account in further discussions around cybersecurity policy.

Thank you.