

**France contribution to the OEWG capacity-building “mapping exercise”**

The increasing digitization of societies since the end of the 20th century has contributed to the development of the opportunities offered by cyberspace and, at the same time, to the emergence of new threats. The continued expansion of this space and its attack surfaces gives state and non-state malicious actors new and cheap opportunities to conduct criminal, espionage, destabilization and/or disruptive operations.

Faced with this threat, in parallel with the efforts being made to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity, France is committed to help strengthening the cyber resilience of its international partners. In an area of conflict that is partly intangible, where attackers do not respect borders, strengthening our national resilience must go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen capabilities at global level, as already emphasized in the February 2018 Cyber Defense Strategic Review and reiterated in the November 2022 National Strategic Review. The French cyber capacity building activities and programmes are the fruit of the efforts from various inter-agency actors.

France systematically aligns its cyber capacity building efforts with the UN normative framework for responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs, considering that capacity-building programmes and initiatives participate in implementing this framework.

In this context, the First Committee of the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 78/L.60 REV1 on the Programme of Action to advance responsible State behaviour in the use of ICTs in the context of international security. Tabled by France, the United States and Colombia, this resolution obtained 158 votes in favor of establishing a permanent, inclusive and action-oriented mechanism, upon the conclusion of the 2021-2025 OEWG and no later than 2026. Among the specific objectives of this mechanism will be to support States in the implementation of the framework for responsible behaviour, including through capacity building.

Pursuant to the request of paragraph 46 of the Annex contained in A/78/265 entitled “Progress report on the discussions of the working group on agenda item 5” France would like to share its efforts regarding information and communication technologies capacity-building programmes and initiatives at global and regional levels.

1/ France partners with UN Member States to advance cybersecurity, cyberdiplomacy the fight against cybercrime within the framework of regional centers, fostering therefore regional cooperation and reaffirming our support to an open, secure, stable, non-fragmented, accessible and peaceful cyberspace :

- Hand-in-hand with **Senegal**, France launched **Dakar’s Cyber National School with Regional Vocation** (Ecole nationale cyber à vocation régionale, or ENVR cyber) in 2021, after two years of conducting training sessions in Dakar. The ENVR cyber primarily delivers training to public agents from Central and Western Africa, but also to trainees from other African sub-regions requesting cyber capacity-building activities.
- Together with **Slovenia**, and in partnership with **Montenegro**, France launched the activities of the **Western Balkans Cyber Capacity Center** (WB3C) in May 2023. The WB3C is positioned as a platform to reinforce the institutional and operational capacities in the region, helping to bring the six Western Balkans countries (Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia) closer to the European Union (EU).

2/ As a EU Member State, France participates in defining and contributing to the EU external action as defined in the NDICI-Global Europe and guided by the 2018 Council Conclusions on the EU External Cyber Capacity Building Guidelines. Within this framework, the national development operator Expertise France participates in various EU cyber-capacity programs, building bridges and fostering exchange of best practices with other regions, including:

- In the 2021 EU Indo-Pacific strategy, cybersecurity has been identified as one of the key area of cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Together with GIZ (Germany), Expertise France implements the **Enhancing Security Cooperation in and with Asia** (ESIWA) project, fostering cyber dialogue between the EU and key partners of the region (India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam).
- Expertise France is also actively involved in building cyber cooperation between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) as part of the **EU-LAC Digital Alliance**. This role enables to bring closer

the two regions on a wide range of ICT-capacity building themes, including regulatory and cybersecurity dialogue.

France is also committed in the European Commission's Digital for Development (D4D) Hub, and participate in building cyber capacity-building programmes with DG INTPA and other EU Member States in Africa and Central Asia.

3/ France also participates in the cyber capacity building efforts carried out by **regional and international fora**. For instance, France supports extra-budgetary **OSCE** projects to conduct cyber security workshops with the different OSCE sub-regions, including Central Asia, South Caucasus and the Western Balkans.