



16 November 2023

Dear Ms. Browning, Ms. Prizeman,

Thank you for your invitation to submit the views of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) on the landscape of information and communications technologies (ICT) capacity-building programmes and initiatives within and outside the United Nations (UN) at the global and regional levels (reference: ODA/2023-00042/ ICT-Mapping Exercise).

UNIDIR is honoured to present a brief overview of its capacity-building activities in the context of international ICT security, developed and delivered in line with the UNIDIR mandate, which includes the promotion of informed participation by all States in disarmament efforts.

In light of this, capacity-building activities in the context of international ICT security are developed and delivered by the UNIDIR Security and Technology Programme (SecTec), targeting specialized audiences and pursuing two main objectives – knowledge-building and disseminating research. The activities can be divided into three categories – research, participatory learning activities and facilitated access to information.

**Research activities** include the production of research papers to support a better understanding of specific issues and the production of tools and methods. SecTec published more than 25 publications since 2019, covering a range of topics from cyber policy, norms, international law and threats. Examples include the following research papers:

- International Cooperation to Mitigate Cyber Operations Against Critical Infrastructure.
- Non-Escalatory Attribution of International Cyber Incidents: Facts, International Law and Politics.
- A Taxonomy of Cyber Incidents.
- Enhancing Cooperation to Address Criminal and Terrorist Use of ICTs.
- Due diligence in Cyberspace: Normative Expectations of Reciprocal Protection of International Legal Rights.
- Wading Murky Waters: Subsea Communications Cables and Responsible State Behaviour.

Some of the publications were translated in official UN languages other than English. The full catalogue of publications can be accessed on our website [www.unidir.org](http://www.unidir.org)

**Participatory learning activities** include:

- Annual Cyber Stability Conference.
- Ad hoc thematic seminars and clinics.
- Summer courses.
- Ad hoc training modules.
- Table-top Exercises and scenario-based simulations.

For example, in 2020, UNIDIR organised a series of online seminars on the operationalisation of the norms of responsible State behaviour in cyberspace. In 2021, UNIDIR organised three multi-stakeholder dialogues on the operationalisation of said norms, serving not only capacity-building but also confidence-building purposes. In 2022, UNIDIR organised and delivered regional briefings, intended to provide guidance to the government representatives on the deliberations of the OEWG



2021–2025. The same year, UNIDIR partnered with UNITAR to develop and deliver a two weeks’ summer course on international normative frameworks, information communication technologies and artificial intelligence, to an audience of government representatives of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. In 2022, UNIDIR devised table-top exercises on regional cyber crisis management resolution mechanisms and partnered with ASEAN and OAS bringing together more than 50 government officials from 30 different countries. In 2023, UNIDIR organised the Cyber Stability Conference, aimed at advancing multilateral discussions on the rights and responsibilities under the UN Charter in the context of the use of ICTs by States.

**Facilitated access to information** includes:

- Development and maintenance of UNIDIR’s Cyber Policy Portal in all UN official languages.
- Development of maintenance of UNIDIR’s Cyber Policy Database.
- Collaboration and data sharing with other relevant initiatives and tools (e.g. Cybil Portal of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise).

SecTec is funded exclusively through the voluntary contributions of its donors. Specifically, in 2022-2023, SecTec received financial support from 14 donors for its activities; core programme donors included the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and Microsoft; additional support for specific activities was received from Australia, Canada, China, France, European Union, Japan, New Zealand, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom and United States.

We remain at your disposal to provide any additional information as necessary.

Sincerely,

Giacomo Persi Paoli  
Head of Programme, Security & Technology  
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research