

**Input Paper for the Work of the
Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)**

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Introduction:

This paper focuses on the issue of Information and Communications Security in light of the report by the “Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security” (GGE) contained in document A/68/98*.

Egypt participated actively in the activities of the GGE, as well as during the relevant discussions of the First Committee of the General Assembly (Disarmament and International Security). Egypt continues to contribute to its discussion on the increasingly important issue of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) security. The GGE report could be used as a base to continue the discussion on this important subject. On many aspects, it offers the starting point for further work, in particular on issues related to the international legal framework.

Themes and Concepts for the work of the GGE

We wish to highlight the following points:

1. In their use of ICTs, States must observe their obligations under Article 2(3) of the United Nations Charter to settle international disputes by peaceful means, as well as the prohibition in Article 2(4) of the Charter on the threat or use of force. In the context of ICT Security, which is the subject of the GGE, threat or use of force would also encompass the destruction or causing harm in any form to all layers of the ICT infrastructure, whether physical or digital, of a Member State. I specify in particular three interlinked layers of the internet: a) telecommunications and related infrastructure; b) content and ICT related applications, and c) content and its related applications. In this regard, more efforts geared for developing and implementing confidence building measures to diffuse cyber tensions and to mitigate cyber risks are needed.
2. Gaps in capacity related to ICT security among States, especially with the rapid increase in vulnerabilities across in an interconnected world, and expanding challenges to developing countries due to the limited resources. Developing countries are most affected by the negative impact of adverse and malicious uses of ICT, commensurate capacity building and adequate transfer of knowledge and technology should be integral to any multilateral initiatives regarding ICT security. Two issues to be highlighted here:
 - i. Focus on the effective implication of the recommendation stated in paragraph 30 which states that “capacity building is of vital importance to an effective cooperative global effort on securing ICTs and their use.” There should be more efforts to provide assistance to the States in order to “improve the security of critical ICT infrastructure;

develop technical skill and appropriate legislation, strategies and regulatory frameworks to fulfill their responsibilities; and bridge the divide in the security of ICTs and their use”.

- ii. Development of training programs to help overcome the digital divide and help developing countries cope with international developments in the field of public policy, and to consider ways in which the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, along with other international and regional centers and organization can play in this regard. Also, there should be more regional and international cooperation and coordination through creating and strengthening incident response capabilities, including CERTs, and strengthening CERT-to-CERT cooperation.
3. Establishing attribution for attacks on ICTs, and the related aspects of state responsibility, requires enabling to the fullest degree, the participation of all countries, especially developing countries, in all arrangements related to the management and governance of the critical Internet infrastructure. The contribution of governments in areas related to public policy aspects of ICT security should be recognized in this regard.

Conclusion:

4. Egypt stands ready to contribute to the discussions of the upcoming session of the GGE, as part of the cumulative expertise in this regard. The work of the United Nations remains indispensable as it provides the only universal and truly multilateral forum for deliberations and consensus building related to ICT security. Such efforts, within the United Nations, build upon the global consensus contained in the outcome documents of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society. These efforts should be geared towards safeguarding cyberspace from becoming an arena of cyber arms race and cyber conflict, and ensuring instead the exclusive peaceful uses which would enable the full realization of the potential of ICTs for contributing to social and economic development.
5. In this context, Egypt highlighted a few issues of priority related to ICT security. There are many other issues that need to be addressed as well. For this reason, Egypt strongly supports paragraph 29 of the report of the GGE which cites that the Group “recommends regular institutional dialogue with broad participation under the auspices of the United Nations”. Pending the establishment of such mechanism, Egypt supports the continuation of the work of the GGE as recommended by draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/68/L.37.
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