

# CYBER STABILITY CONFERENCE

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

2020 Conference Report



**UNIDIR**

UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE  
FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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The Security and Technology Programme would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of Camino Kavanagh to the preparation and delivery of this Conference.

Design and layout by Eric M. Schulz. Photos by Marc Henley.

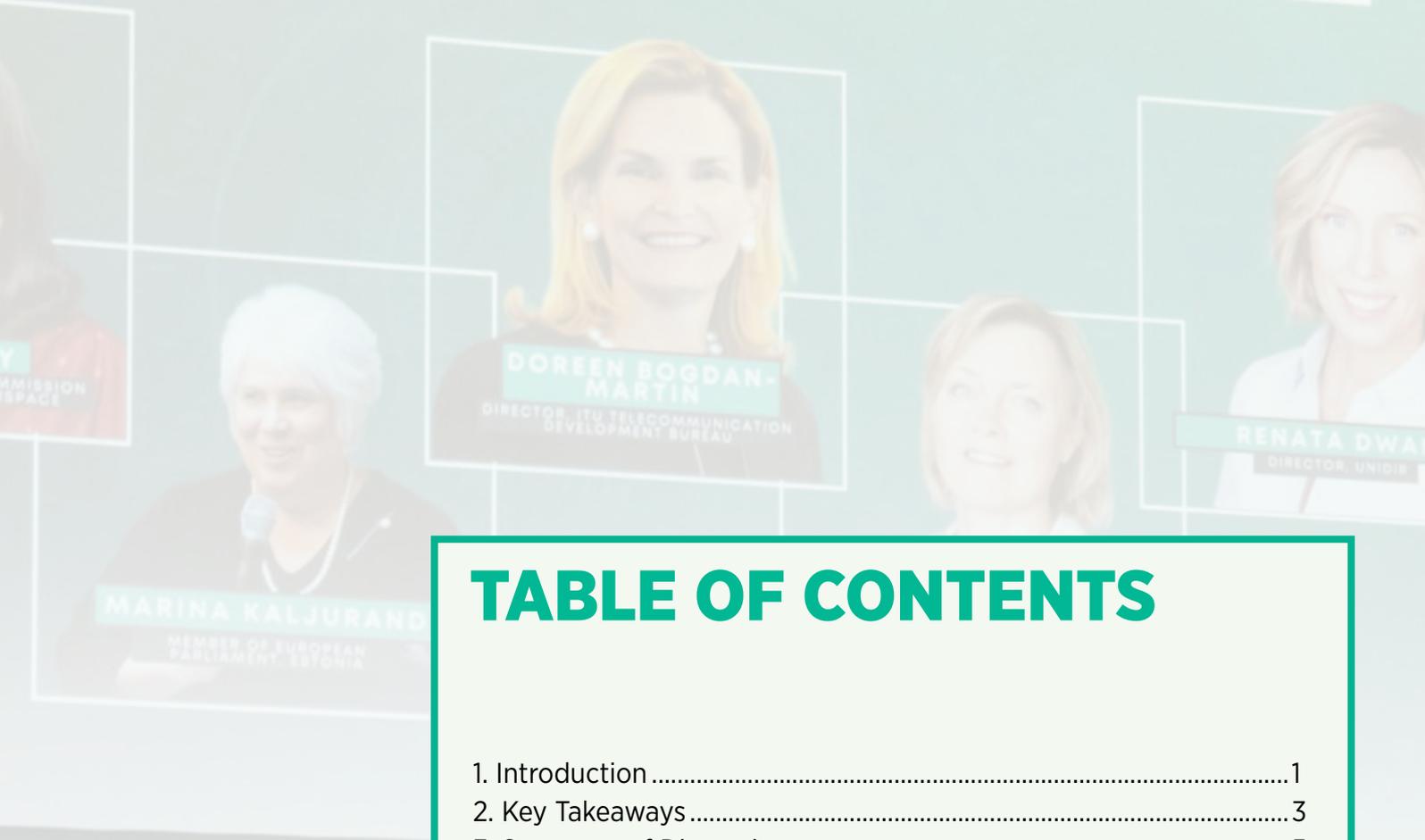
## **ABOUT UNIDIR**

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is a voluntarily funded, autonomous institute within the United Nations. One of the few policy institutes worldwide focusing on disarmament, UNIDIR generates knowledge and promotes dialogue and action on disarmament and security. Based in Geneva, UNIDIR assists the international community to develop the practical, innovative ideas needed to find solutions to critical security problems.

## **NOTE**

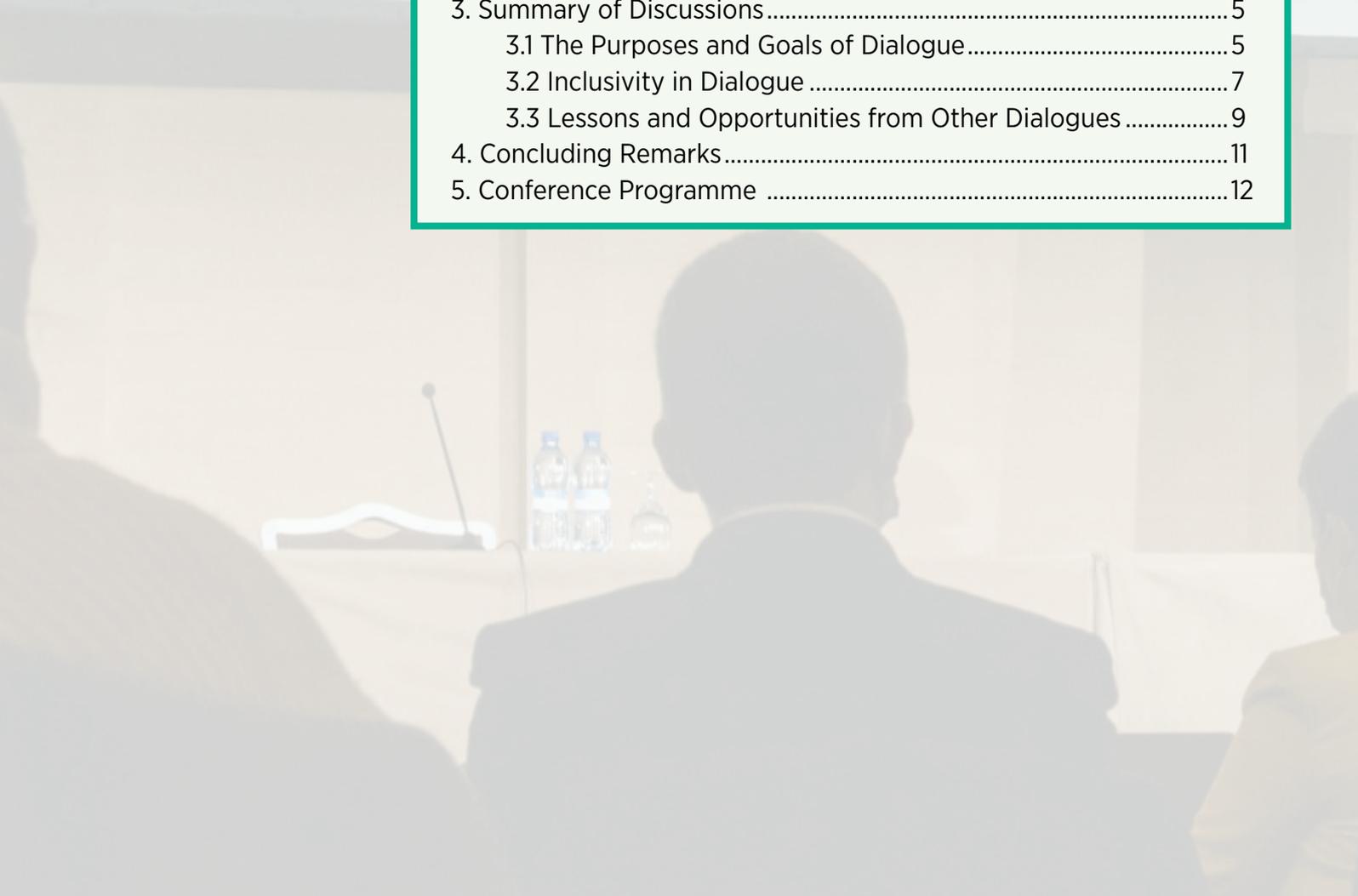
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# THE URGENCY OF DIALOGUE



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▲ Former UNIDIR Director Renata Dwan addresses the virtual and in-person audience at the UNIDIR 2020 Cyber Stability Conference

#### LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

<b>CBM</b>	Confidence-building measure
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus 2019
<b>CS2020</b>	2020 Cyber Stability Conference
<b>GGE</b>	Group of governmental experts
<b>ICT</b>	Information and communications technology
<b>OEWG</b>	Open-ended working group

# 1. INTRODUCTION



▲ A look inside the control room for the digital team behind the livestreaming of the conference.

The Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has reshaped modern society by accelerating the digitalization of many aspects of the lives of individuals, businesses and organizations. In April 2020, Microsoft’s CEO Satya Nadella stated that “We’ve seen two years’ worth of digital transformation in two months” and highlighted how every sector had to adapt and operate in a “world of remote everything”.<sup>1</sup>

While societies and economies might potentially benefit in the medium and long terms from this accelerated digital transformation, the cyber threat landscape has also rapidly evolved and expanded in an unprecedented way. Cybersecurity companies and law enforcement agencies have reported surges of cyberattacks of the order of 400–800 per cent compared to pre-COVID-19 data. Interpol has reported an alarming rate of cyberattacks targeting critical infrastructure, government and major corporations, with the health and medical sector being a primary target.<sup>2</sup>

While the potentially destabilizing effects of cyberattacks have been acknowledged by experts and policy makers for the past two decades, this issue moved to the fore in 2020, attracting the attention and concerns by a much larger group of stakeholders from different sectors.

In this context, the role of regular institutional dialogue has become even more prominent. Dialogue has traditionally been an instrument underpinning international stability. This holds true for many areas of international security and cyber is no exception.

The past decade has witnessed a flourishing of processes relating to information and communications technology (ICT) and international security and stability.

<sup>1</sup> J. Spataro, “2 Years of Digital Transformation in 2 Months”, Microsoft, 30 April 2020, <https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoft-365/blog/2020/04/30/2-years-digital-transformation-2-months/>.

<sup>2</sup> MonsterCloud, “Top Cyber Security Experts Report: 4,000 Cyber Attacks a Day Since COVID-19 Pandemic”, PRNewswire, 11 August 2020, <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/top-cyber-security-experts-report-4-000-cyber-attacks-a-day-since-covid-19-pandemic-301110157.html>.

Within the United Nations, dialogue on ICT and international security and stability has been ongoing since 1998. The question of regularizing this dialogue has been a consistent agenda item since the late 2000s. It is closely tied to advancing discussion on the core issues that have resulted from United Nations processes to date: existing and emerging threats, norms of responsible State behaviour, international law, and confidence and capacity building.<sup>3</sup> These initial results were achieved through the work of groups of governmental experts (GGE) working under the General Assembly's First Committee (on Disarmament and International Security), and endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 72/237. In the context of the United Nations GGEs, the issue of dialogue among States has been regularly included in all consensus reports, although the purpose and goals of such dialogue have remained a moving target, ranging from discussion of norms (2010), via confidence and capacity building (2013) to application of international law (2015).

Follow-on processes are discussing the question of a more regularized form of dialogue in the United Nations: whether to institutionalize it and, if so, for what purpose, under what format and with the engagement of whom. Such processes include the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Communications in the Context of International Security, which was established in 2018 and which runs in parallel with the sixth GGE.

Beyond the United Nations, a number of regional organizations have established processes and mechanisms for addressing ICT-related international security challenges. These forms of dialogue focus largely on advancing awareness and sharing understanding. They also focus on implementing the measures recommended by the United Nations GGEs, notably in the areas of confidence building and norms, adapting them to regional contexts and priorities. In addition, a number of States or groupings of States have put in place plurilateral and bilateral “cyber dialogues” to discuss issues relevant to ICT and international security. Some of these dialogues take place within the context of broader bilateral strategic or economic dialogues. Some have involved or are organized by other actors such as think tanks, civil society organizations, the technical community, or technology and social media companies. Several of these dialogues have produced results; others have stalled.

Drawing on these developments, and without prejudging the outcomes of ongoing processes, the CS2020 conference focused on the future of institutional dialogue relevant to ICT and international security and stability.

Organized in a hybrid format, CS2020 sought to identify lessons from dialogues that have emerged on other issues of global concern. With an eye to the future of dialogue, speakers discussed issues such as the urgency, purposes and goals of dialogue relevant to ICT and international security. They also addressed more practical questions relating to process design and assessment of outcomes and to ensuring inclusivity in dialogue.

<sup>3</sup> For a summary of how regular institutional dialogue has been discussed in United Nations processes since 2010, see UNIDIR, “Regular Institutional Dialogue’ in the Consensus Reports of the United Nations Groups of Governmental Experts and the Mandate of the OEWG”, Background paper prepared for the United Nations Open-Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security, December 2019, <https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/background-paper-on-regular-institutional-dialogue.pdf>.

## 2. KEY TAKEAWAYS



▲ Giacomo Persi Paoli, Programme Lead for UNIDIR's Security and Technology Programme, speaks at CS20.

While the intent was not to focus the discussions on existing United Nations cyber processes, the current context characterized by high uncertainty inevitably led speakers to refer back to such processes in many of their remarks and arguments. That being said, the conference laid bare that, more than ever in recent years, dialogue among States and between States and other actors on ICT is imperative for the maintenance of international security and stability.

Some of the key highlights include:

- ICT-related incidents involving States both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic have added to the urgency of calls to strengthen dialogue at the global, regional and bilateral levels. At the same time, the global backdrop to these calls has grown difficult: a shifting international security and normative environment in which dialogue between States (the major powers in particular) is stalling; growing discontent with – or disregard for – multilateralism; and an increase in the complexity and diffuseness of actors, frameworks and interconnections, with divides – digital or otherwise – between States more evident.
- Both within and beyond the United Nations, it is critical that existing platforms for dialogue are strengthened to preventing conflict, to deal with the hard issues in times of tension, and to build an understanding of positions, concerns and boundaries, while also seeking common ground. These platforms can serve to advance the responsible behaviour of all actors in their uses of ICT and to bridge divides, be they geographical, gender, normative, technical or other.
- Form should follow function. The framework for responsible behaviour (and its six pillars of action) that has resulted from the United Nations GGEs serves as an important guide

for determining the purposes and goals of dialogue. While it is an important example of how consistent engagement can produce results over time, the current situation shows how sustained engagement and cooperation are equally important for generating legitimacy and broadening ownership of those results – and for translating them into concrete action.

- A conducive environment is critical to defining and meeting the purposes and goals of dialogue. Without it, dialogue will not succeed, regardless of the form or the function.
- Both inclusivity and transparency can foster trust in and afford greater legitimacy to a given dialogue. Ensuring inclusivity from the design phase and throughout the lifecycle of a dialogue is key to its success. Transparency is equally important, even if the nature and scope of the dialogue, the specific phase of the dialogue and the actors involved will at times influence the degree of transparency possible.
- As information technology becomes more ubiquitous and complex, institutional dialogue on issues relating to ICT and international security and stability need to be informed by experts from a broad range of fields from within and beyond government. This will enable those who speak on our behalf in these dialogues to be fully informed.
- Ensuring inclusivity in dialogue is also critical to understanding and responding to the views and concerns of others. This includes the direct and indirect harms that a State's pursuit of security and stability in the ICT environment can pose to civilians, global connectivity, the global economy, development and international trade, and to international security and stability itself. Putting in place adequate mechanisms to facilitate such interactions and cross-policy dialogue is urgently needed at national, regional and global levels.

In short, while there is certainly an urgency for institutional dialogue on questions concerning ICT and international security and stability, dialogue in this area will only be truly effective if there is political will to drive and sustain it and if it:

- Remains tethered to the purposes and principles of the United Nations
- Builds on and strengthens what exists
- Is responsive to the threats at hand
- Is sensitive to lessons from other dialogues on issues of global concern
- Is action-oriented and
- Importantly, is inclusive in terms of who participates, how its purposes and goals are set, and how its objectives are addressed

## 3. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS



▲ In-person participants at the hybrid conference hosted online and in Geneva.

### 3.1 THE PURPOSES AND GOALS OF DIALOGUE (THE 'WHAT')

Dialogue between States is critical to addressing global challenges, particularly those with a bearing on international security. While dialogue can be goal oriented, it has a value on its own merit to the extent that it brings relevant State (and non-State) actors together to meet, discuss and exchange perspectives. This is highlighted by the political significance and meaning often given to interruptions of dialogue, on whichever topic.

Established practices of goal-oriented dialogues include arrangements for exchanges of information on existing and emerging threats; crisis and risk management; confidence and trust building; and advancing discussion or agreement on norms and other related measures. In moments of tension, or in advance of more formal negotiations, dialogue can also serve to increase understanding of respective concerns, priorities and policies. While dialogue arrangements within the United Nations generally involve just States, they have often benefitted from the views and experiences of other actors.

To date, six GGEs (five past and one on-going) and the current OEWG have identified a path for dialogue on ICT and international security and stability. They have led to the structuring of international discourse around the six pillars that represent a framework for responsible behaviour of States: information sharing on threats, international law, norms, confidence-building measures (CBMs), international cooperation and capacity building. These outcomes have been carried forward beyond the United Nations to the regional and bilateral levels and are also evident in para-diplomatic activity involving other relevant stakeholders. They continue to



▲ Serge Droz, Security Lead, Proton Technologies; Chair, Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST)

serve important awareness-raising purposes and form the basis for international, regional and domestic cooperation as States move to operationalize them.

Despite these positive developments, dialogue (and negotiation) is still needed, especially on the friction points, the “hard conversations”. In these cases, there is still limited or mixed agreement between States on some of the substantive issues under discussion (e.g. on how international law applies to the use of ICT by States). Dialogue and negotiation on these harder issues can take various forms, bilateral, plurilateral or multilateral. With regard to ICT and international security and stability, it is increasingly evident that other, non-cyber-related factors can seriously limit progress in this area. It will thus be important to identify what these factors are and their weight with regard to positive and sustainable outcomes.

The United Nations remains critical to the future of dialogue, although it is becoming increasingly evident that States benefit from the engagement of and interaction with other actors on substantive issues at different stages of a dialogue. The OEWG informal multi-stakeholder dialogue and the consultations that have informed the work of the GGE were noted as a first step towards a more transparent way for different stakeholders to inform the positions of States at the multilateral level. Whether this development is acknowledged and acted upon in the final outcome of the two ongoing processes within the United Nations and in processes ongoing at the regional level remains to be seen.

Political will and a conducive environment are fundamental to reaching agreement on the purposes and goals of dialogue and the steps required to implement those purposes and goals. Without these elements, it will be difficult for dialogue to succeed, regardless of the format.

### 3.2 INCLUSIVITY IN DIALOGUE (THE 'WHO')

In addition to defining purposes and goals, a number of other factors need to be considered before any form of dialogue is established or institutionalized. These additional factors include attributes such as the composition (who should be involved and in what capacity) and how inclusive the dialogue should be. This last point is particularly important given the efforts by the United Nations and other multilateral organizations in recent years to ensure greater inclusivity in dialogue, in terms of both geographical and gender representation.

The two processes underway in the United Nations are in themselves a window into how these efforts are bearing fruit, although somewhat fitfully at times: the OEWG involves the broader United Nations membership and has used informal consultations with non-State actors to inform its work. While the broader participation in the OEWG has resulted in a stronger feeling of inclusivity, some States remain reluctant to facilitate a more regular engagement with other actors in its deliberations.

The GGE remains a smaller arrangement, although it, too, has broadened its participation and its inclusive nature over the years. It now includes a provision for consultations with regional bodies and the wider United Nations membership to inform its work. It has not, however, provided for direct engagement with non-State actors. There is hope that any future institutional dialogue at the United Nations will involve the structured engagement of all of these different actors. For this to happen, existing barriers to participation will have to be addressed, particularly resource issues and the process for receiving accreditation to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



▲ Russian delegation at the CS20

Undoubtedly, on an issue as broad-ranging and complex as ICT and international security and stability, it is important to include other voices, especially voices of those who are both part of the problem but also key to solutions. Using dialogue to facilitate such engagement enhances trust and legitimacy, provides for a better articulation of the roles and responsibilities of different actors, and helps identify how they can best contribute to meeting the purposes and goals of different dialogues. The intention is not to supplant the role of governments but to inform their decision-making processes with expert knowledge and through more meaningful exchanges.

The full and effective participation of all genders remains an essential factor for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security. In this regard, important lessons on impact and empowerment in other processes can be applied to the United Nations processes on ICT and international security (e.g. on the role of gender in the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other disarmament processes). All actors can be flexible and creative in finding ways to include the voices of those who have been traditionally excluded from dialogue.

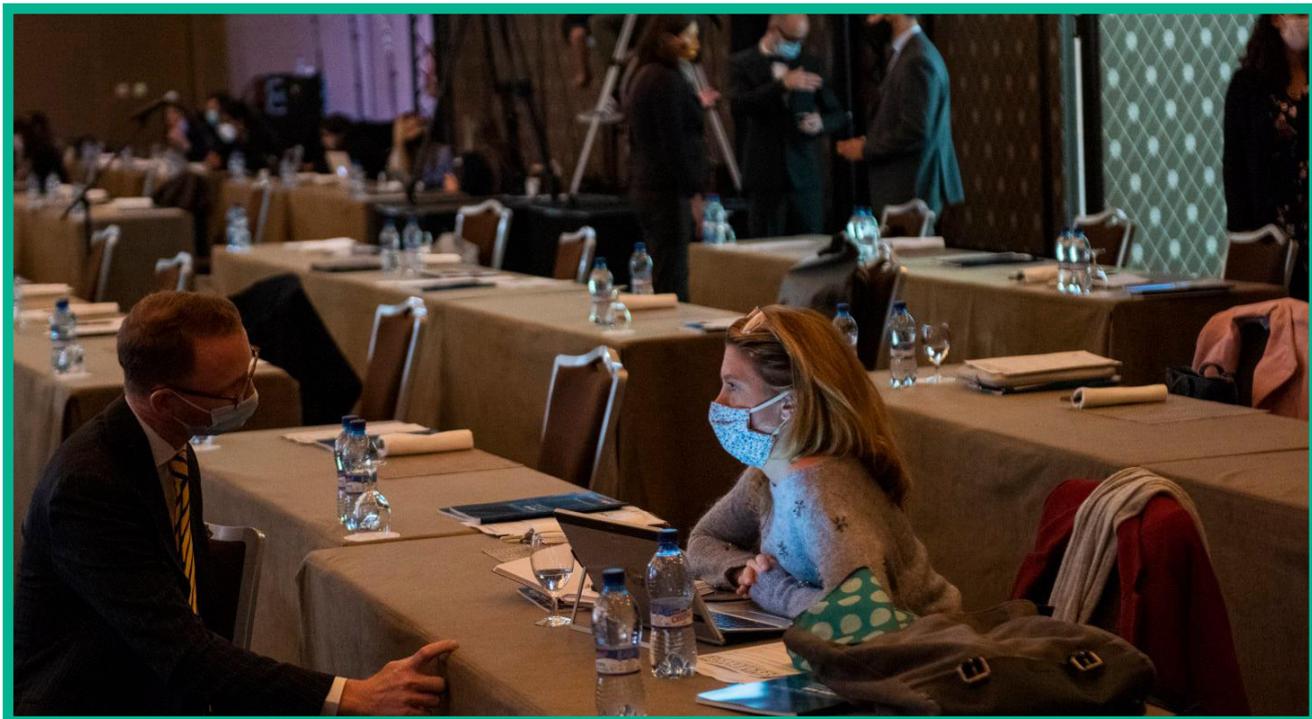
At the same time, it is important to ensure that those actors that do participate have legitimacy within their own communities or sectors and that they have the capacity to participate and can contribute meaningfully. In this regard, capacity building plays an important role in fostering greater inclusivity.

Moving forward, a five-factor test for ensuring greater inclusivity in dialogue was proposed:

- Everyone knows enough to choose whether or not to participate
- Everyone interested can participate
- Everyone's viewpoints and insights are respected
- Everyone enjoys the benefits and outcomes of a dialogue
- Everyone participates in setting the agenda (the planning and prioritizing)

Less progress has been made in the multilateral space with regard to the last of these points. This is especially true for developing countries, which are generally only invited to participate in processes once the objectives and priorities have already been set. There is an opportunity now to correct this.

### 3.3 LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES FROM OTHER DIALOGUES (THE “HOW”)



▲ In-person participants at the hybrid conference hosted online and in Geneva.

Lessons from established arrangements within and beyond the United Nations can inform current discussions on establishing institutional dialogue on ICT in the context of international security. Such lessons include putting in place mechanisms for the structured and meaningful engagement of subject-matter and scientific experts and ensuring mechanisms for agreeing – and using – common language and concepts from the outset. However, finding a way to bring in the right expertise is challenging.

Other lessons include ensuring that baseline objectives are set, in an inclusive manner, from the outset; agreeing on common principles to guide the dialogue; and setting targets rather than specific implementation objectives. The United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons appears to be a model that can lend itself to the cyber, ICT and international security context.

Beyond the United Nations, a number of regions host institutional dialogues on ICT and international security and stability, using existing regional and subregional arrangements for that purpose. In addition, many States are involved in a broad range of plurilateral or bilateral dialogues relating directly or indirectly to international security and stability, some of which have led to important agreements.

Each of these dialogues is established on the basis of different objectives and different operating principles. These differences shape how States engage and with whom at different stages of a process. Certain issues tabled for dialogue will be State-to-State; others may be more apt for discussion at a regional level; while yet others may involve other actors, again depending on the stage of the process and the topics under discussion. It is important to understand these subtleties in assessing whether, how and when to engage.

Regional- and subregional-level dialogues have significant value: they can help build awareness, identify threats, bring forward recommendations of groups such as the GGEs and build capacity within regional or subregional contexts. They can serve as a basis for exchanging lessons and good practices on national approaches to ICT security and incident response, and can serve as a platform for engaging actors other than States. Work underway at the regional level on CBMs and capacity building are examples of how much dialogue matters in this regard.

Beyond bilateral and regional dialogues, para-diplomatic activity such as track 1.5 and track 2 dialogues can also contribute to international security and stability: they can bring alternative voices to the table or provide a space for interaction between actors that do not traditionally engage with each other. They can serve as a conduit for introducing new or “difficult” issues relevant to international security and stability onto the agenda, or for discussing creative responses to existing and emerging threats. Importantly, they can also serve to keep much-needed channels of dialogue open when more formal forms of dialogue have broken down.

Other forms of dialogue include those that have taken place within the Internet Governance Forum or those that have emerged under the umbrella of the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace. These are important contributions.

At the same time, there are still important gaps between traditional diplomatic norm-shaping efforts and those led by or involving industry actors. The former are often viewed as staid, heavy processes, prone to over-regulation and capture by geopolitical trends and not always willing to engage other critical actors; the latter are considered to be lighter and more agile, yet are often insensitive to the relevant harms of under-regulation, and are also increasingly influenced by geopolitical trends. It will be important to find more creative and meaningful ways to bridge such norm-shaping efforts and to exchange lessons and experiences, including through the United Nations, regional bodies and existing forums such as the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, the Internet Governance Forum and other such initiatives.

There are concerns that a proliferation of dialogues on ICT and international security and stability could lead to redundancy or duplication of effort at all levels and that too much dialogue can use up scarce resources. Nonetheless, too much dialogue is not necessarily a bad thing. What is important is to avoid direct competition between initiatives and to steer away from reinforcing competing views and, instead, to find ways to bridge them. Indeed, the range of dialogues underway can coexist and there is value in connecting these different processes and dialogues through interregional interactions, global action and more effective and informed use of funding.

## 4. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The current geopolitical environment combined with the emerging trends in threats to the security of ICT make the need for dialogue among all relevant actors more essential than ever. The discussions throughout CS2020 further confirmed the need for continued dialogue on questions concerning ICT and international security and stability.

Such dialogue is required to advance progress on issues already agreed upon in previous processes and dialogues, to exchange lessons and good practices on implementation, and to identify those areas where targeted support and assistance may be required. Continued dialogue is also needed to facilitate discussion on new threats that might emerge and on possible approaches to addressing them. Moreover, dialogue can serve to deal with the “hard questions,” those issues around which differences of views and positions still need to be fully understood so they may eventually be bridged. Finally, and importantly, dialogue channels can serve as a safety valve in the event that tensions between States escalate.

Looking towards the future, existing channels of and platforms for dialogue on ICT and international security and stability – be they multilateral, plurilateral, bilateral or multi-stakeholder – need to be strengthened, streamlined and made more inclusive if they are to meet these objectives. The United Nations can play a substantial role in bringing forward that dialogue.

Indeed, as its Member States highlighted in the Declaration on the Commemoration of the Seventy-fifth Anniversary of the United Nations, “[t]here is no other global organization with the legitimacy, convening power and normative impact of the United Nations. No other global organization gives hope to so many people for a better world and can deliver the future we want.”<sup>4</sup> This includes its impact on issues related to ICT and international security and stability. The two processes currently underway are likely to determine what comes next in terms of institutional dialogue within the United Nations relevant to ICT and international security and stability. Regardless of the form or format of such dialogue, discussions during CS2020 laid bare that such institutional dialogue will only be truly effective if there is political will to drive it; if it remains tethered to the purposes and principles of the United Nations; if it builds on and strengthens what exists; if it is responsive to the threats at hand; if it is sensitive to lessons from other dialogues on issues of global concern; if it is action-oriented; and, importantly, if it is inclusive in terms of who participates, how its purposes and goals are set, and how its objectives are addressed.

4 General Assembly, A/RES/75/1, 2020, <https://undocs.org/A/RES/75/1>

# CYBER STABILITY CONFERENCE

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

28 SEPTEMBER 2020

FORMAL OPENING OF CS20

9:00

THE URGENCY OF DIALOGUE

9:00

## *Moderated Discussion*

ICT-related incidents involving States both before and during the Covid-19 pandemic have added to the urgency of calls to establish institutional dialogue within the United Nations and strengthen dialogue at regional and sub-regional levels. At the same time, however, the global backdrop to these calls has grown difficult: a shifting international security and normative environment in which dialogue between States, the major powers in particular, is stalling; growing discontent with - or disregard for - multilateralism, with actors, frameworks and interconnections more complex and divides - digital or otherwise - between States more evident.

The speakers will explore the opportunities and challenges of establishing dialogue among States and between States and other actors in the current environment; the feasibility of facilitating or establishing dialogue between States; the involvement of actors other than States in dialogue; and the international security implications if dialogue between relevant actors is not feasible or if dialogue breaks down.

### *Featuring:*

**Latha Reddy**

**Marina Kaljurand**

**Doreen Bogdan-Martin**

**Carmen Gonsalves**

**Renata Dwan**

### *Affiliation:*

*Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace*

*European Parliament*

*International Telecommunication Union*

*Netherlands*

*UNIDIR*

THE PURPOSES & GOALS OF DIALOGUE

10:15

## *Panel I*

Dialogue between States has historically been critical to addressing global challenges, particularly those with a bearing on international security. This panel will discuss the specific purposes or goals of establishing dialogue on ICTs and international security. Questions include, for instance, whether a more formalized dialogue under the auspices of the UN would serve as a precursor to a more formal agreement or arrangement, or if it would simply serve as an ongoing platform for States to exchange views on different issues relevant to ICTs and international security, such as information sharing on existing and emerging threats, norm and CBM implementation, exchanges of good practices, capacity building gaps and opportunities. Panelists will also be asked to consider linkages between institutional dialogue relevant to ICTs and international security and other core pillars of the UN's work.

### *Featuring:*

**Amb. Nadine Olivieri Lozano**

**Bassem Hassan**

**Wang Lei**

**Patryk Pawlak**

**Kerstin Vignard**

### *Affiliation:*

*Switzerland*

*The Arab Republic of Egypt*

*China*

*EUISS*

*UNIDIR*

# CYBER STABILITY CONFERENCE

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

28 SEPTEMBER 2020

## INCLUSIVITY IN DIALOGUE

11:30

### *Panel II*

Over the past decade, the United Nations and other multilateral organizations have placed significant emphasis on ensuring greater inclusivity in their work. This panel will explore the relevance and purpose of this emphasis to ICTs and international security in the context of the two ongoing processes at the UN and discussions on regular institutional dialogue, with a specific focus on geographical, gender and sectoral representation.

#### *Featuring:*

**Orla Tunney**

**Katherine Getao**

**Jean-Yves Art**

**Serge Droz**

**Lu Chuanying**

**Renata Hessmann Dalaqua**

#### *Affiliation:*

*Ireland*

*Kenya*

*Microsoft*

*Proton Technologies and FIRST*

*Shanghai Institutes for International Security*

*UNIDIR*

## LUNCH BREAK

## INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUES WITH THE UN: LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

13:45

### *Panel III*

Are there established practices regarding institutional dialogue within or beyond the United Nations that can inform current discussions on establishing institutional dialogue on ICTs in the context of international security? This session will discuss existing experiences, including the opportunities derived from establishing a more institutionalized form of dialogue, the principles and criteria that informed the 'how', 'where' and 'who' in the design of the process, as well as some of the key lessons and challenges encountered.

#### *Featuring:*

**Amb. Henri Verdier**

**Amb. Amandeep Gill**

**Madeline Carr**

**Himayu Shiotani**

**Amb. Jurg Lauber**

#### *Affiliation:*

*France*

*International Digital Health & AI Research Collaborative*

*University College of London*

*UNIDIR*

*Switzerland*

# CYBER STABILITY CONFERENCE

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

28 SEPTEMBER 2020

## DIALOGUES ON ICTS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AT REGIONAL AND BI-LATERAL LEVEL 15:15

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### *Panel IV*

A number of regions host institutional dialogues on ICTs and international security, using existing regional and sub-regional arrangements for that purpose. Many States, too, are involved in a broad range of dialogues through pluri-lateral or bi-lateral arrangements, some of which have led to important agreements. Others less so.

This panel will focus on the lessons that can be drawn from these experiences. For instance, what criteria do States or groups of States bear in mind when assessing their options for entering into dialogue on issues pertaining to ICTs and international security such as norms or CBMs? Under current circumstances, what issue areas are likely to wield most progress in dialogue? In what manner or to what extent can the engagement of other actors - for instance, para-diplomatic activity such as track 1.5 or track 2 dialogues - contribute to strengthening dialogue between States regionally or bi-laterally?

### *Featuring:*

**Kathryn Jones**  
**Amb. Sang-Beom Lim**  
**Amb. Karoly Dán**  
**Wiktor Staniecki**  
**Giacomo Persi Paoli**

### *Affiliation:*

*United Kingdom*  
*Republic of Korea*  
*Hungary*  
*EEAS*  
*UNIDIR*

## WHAT FUTURE FOR DIALOGUE ON ICTS AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 16:30

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### *Panel V*

On the basis of the experiences and lessons on dialogue relevant to ICTs and international security discussed throughout the day, the final panel of the day will tackle questions such as what future can we envisage for dialogue on these matters, including within the UN? What are the potential opportunities and challenges of establishing regular institutional dialogue on ICTs and international security within the UN? How might such a dialogue fit into the broader eco- system of dialogues on ICT/cyber matters and vice versa?

### *Featuring:*

**Marietje Schaake**  
**Amb. Andrey Krutskikh**  
**Michele Markoff**  
**Raman Jit Singh Chima**  
**Renata Dwan**

### *Affiliation:*

*Cyber Peace Institute*  
*Russian Federation*  
*United States*  
*Access Now*  
*UNIDIR*

## FORMAL CLOSING OF CS20 17:30

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# CYBER STABILITY CONFERENCE

## EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL DIALOGUE

This report provides a short summary of the 2020 edition of UNIDIR's Cyber Stability Conference (CS2020) held in Geneva on 28 September 2020 with a focus on the future of institutional dialogue relevant to ICT and international security and stability.

CS2020 sought to identify lessons from dialogues that have emerged on other issues of global concern. With an eye to the future of dialogue, speakers discussed issues such as the urgency, purposes and goals of dialogue relevant to ICT and international security. They also addressed more practical questions relating to process design and assessment of outcomes and to ensuring inclusivity in dialogue.



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