OEWG Side Event: Hacking the Boundaries of Trust

Deciphering the Full Potential of Multistakeholder Involvement in Cyber Diplomacy

6th March 2024 13:20 – 14:40
EU Delegation to the United Nations, 666 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10017

Concept

The concept of “multistakeholderism” has earned widespread recognition for its capacity to foster collaboration and address intricate challenges, thus adding significant value to cyber diplomacy. Despite this consensus, the transition from high-level consultations and recommendations to tangible action and collaboration remains limited. The linchpin of this challenge lies in trust, or rather the lack thereof, particularly concerning ‘perceived’ conflicting interests among stakeholders. This distrust often leads to unstructured and informal cross-sectoral cooperation.

Current efforts of collaboration between diverse entities and stakeholders in cyber diplomacy have not fully tapped into the potential of cross-sectoral cooperation. It often remains on an ad hoc basis. Questions persist regarding the optimal extent of multistakeholder engagement, the inherent limitations constraining current practices, and the practical measures necessary to organize multistakeholder cooperation and facilitate deeper cross-sectoral information exchange, thereby fostering stronger alignment of priorities. Central to this effort is the imperative of cultivating trust among stakeholders.

To address these issues, on the margins of the seventh substantive session to the UN Open-Ended Working Group on ICTs we invite you to participate in a hackathon. This hackathon aims to critically examining and identifying avenues for enhancing the effectiveness of multistakeholder involvement in cyber diplomacy. By pinpointing the core challenges and exploring practical solutions, the hackathon seeks to generate ideas towards a more structured and impactful multistakeholder collaboration.

Format

Participants will be divided into small, sector-specific groups (government and IGOs, private sector and civil society) to discuss the value added by multistakeholder cooperation in their respective areas for rapid ideation sessions guided by the moderators. These sessions will focus on triaging the current limits, visualizing ideal forms of collaboration and identifying practical steps towards realizing this vision. Following the ideation sessions, groups will reconvene in a plenary setting to share insights and observations. By mimicking a siloed approach, the hackathon aims at illuminating existing sector specific assumptions and unravelling cross-sectoral (mis)understandings that are at the core of the contemporary challenge of trusted multistakeholder cooperation.
Expected Outcomes

The hackathon aims to achieve several outcomes:
- A deeper understanding of the current limitations and potential of multistakeholder collaboration in cyber diplomacy.
- Identification of practical steps and strategies to enhance trusted collaboration across sectors and entities.
- A roadmap for enhancing multistakeholder involvement in cyber diplomacy. This will include strategies for overcoming trust barriers and structuring cross-sectoral interactions.

By focusing on the core issue of trust and exploring practical modalities for multistakeholder collaboration, “Hacking the Boundaries of Trust” aims to unlock new possibilities for enhancing cyber diplomacy and for leveraging the existing and future work of the multistakeholder community.

Opening Remarks:
- Helen Popp, External Action Service of the European Union

Moderators:
- Andrea Salvi, Project Director of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies
- Marius Houwen, Project Coordinator of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Closing Remarks:
- Andrea Salvi, Project Director of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Light lunch will be served. Please RSVP by March 5 directly via this link.*

* To ensure the success of this hackathon, it’s imperative to maintain a balanced representation across different sectors. Therefore, kindly be aware that RSVPing does not automatically guarantee participation. A confirmation email will be sent shortly to confirm or decline your attendance. Thank you for your understanding.