OEWG Side Event

“How CBMs make a direct contribution to stability and security in cyberspace”

Tuesday 9 July, 08:15-09:45

Venue: Australian Permanent Mission to the UN,
150 East 42nd Street, Level 33

Side-Event hosted by the open, informal, cross-regional group of the OEWG Confidence Builders in the name of the following OEWG participating states: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Germany, Israel, Republic of Korea, Mexico, The Netherlands, Singapore, Uruguay.

This event will explore the direct contribution of CBMs to stability and security in cyberspace in two parts. First, panellists will reflect on practical examples of CBMs implementation, focused on real-world examples of when a CBM has been used, particularly to deescalate situations of potential risk. Second, a scenario-based interactive session will explore how CBMs can apply to hypothetical situations.

**Background:** Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) are a well-proven and established cyber diplomacy-tool to promote peace, transparency, stability and to help reduce the risk of misunderstanding, escalation, and conflict. They can contribute to reducing tensions and can serve to guide states’ behaviour resulting in more stable international relations. In cyberspace, the potential deniability, potency and low cost of malicious cyber activities add to the need for CBMs that are specifically tailored to the unique context of this domain.

Building trust and building confidence is a long-term and progressive commitment requiring the sustained engagement of States. Within the UN, substantial progress has been made over the years to develop CBMs for cyberspace. Each successive GGE and OEWG report has called upon the benefit of practical confidence building and transparency measures in facilitating stability and security in cyberspace, and in 2023 the OEWG agreed an initial set of four cyber specific CBMs.

This year has also seen the establishment of a Global Directory of Points of Contacts to facilitate exchange between all UN member states on issues related to cyber security – a concrete step towards further advancing the cumulative and evolving framework for responsible state behaviour.

Following on from the success of the establishment of the Points of Contact Global Directory, it is a useful opportunity to explore how practical confidence building measures have made a direct contribution to stability and security in cyberspace.

**Expert panel:**

1. John Reyels, Head of Cyberstaff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany
2. Claudio Miguel Peguero Castillo, Ambassador, Advisor on Cyber Issues Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic
3. Dr Gatra Priyandita, Senior Analyst, Cyber, Technology & Security

Please RSVP to Sean.Minehan@dfat.gov.au by Monday 8 July.