

THE FUTURE OF CYBER NORMS: WHY AND HOW LOCALISED NORMS IMPLEMENTATION MATTERS?



Breakfast discussion hosted by the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct and the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations

27 July 2022, 8:15 – 9:30

EU Delegation to the United Nations, 666 3rd Avenue, 31st Floor

Participation in this event is by invitation only. Please register by email to Nils Berglund (nils.berglund@iss.europa.eu) before 10:00 EST on 26 July 2022.

Context

Following the period of norm development in the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG), international community has seen three different approaches to the discussion about norms and principles of responsible state behaviour in cyberspace: norms implementation, norms adaptation and contestation, and proposals for development of new norms. The purpose of this meeting is to take a critical look at each of these approaches and their relevance for strengthening the framework of responsible state behaviour and then contributing to prevent conflicts in cyberspace. We will focus on the localised norm implementation as possibly the most promising approach.

Regional approach is paramount in the UN processes of norm construction because global norm consolidation and sustainability depends on regional representativeness. However, the implementation of such approach routinely underdelivers in practice. During this working breakfast, we will discuss the conditions and dilemmas of the regional cyber approach to address the question: **How to achieve a more localised form of cyber norms implementation that strengthens the global framework of responsible state behaviour, makes it more effective and inclusive?**

While representation in global cyber debates has increased over the past years, this meeting aims to stimulate the discussion about concrete lessons, achievements and challenges for cyber norms localisation in different regional contexts. This includes the role of regional organisations and various non-state actors, for example transregional technical communities and subnational communal actors who confront cyber and digital challenges on the ground.

Agenda

08:00-08:15 Registration and breakfast

08:15-08:20 Welcome and introduction to the discussion

Patryk PAWLAK

Brussels Executive Officer and Project Director, EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct

This meeting advances the earlier reflection about cyber norms within the EU Cyber Direct project (see the background material below) and will serve to formulate a more strategic and policy-oriented framework for approaching norm implementation and norm contestation in action.

08:20-08:40 Introduction to the theme: “The future of cyber norms”

Norms implementation at the UN

Isaac MORALES TENORIO

Coordinator for Multidimensional Security, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico

Localised norms implementation

Xymena KUROWSKA

Associate Professor, Department of International Relations, Central European University; Member of the Advisory Board, EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative – EU Cyber Direct

Professor Kurowska is an International Relations theorist interested in interpretive policy analysis. She received her doctorate in political and social sciences from European University Institute in Florence. She works within international political sociology and critical affective geopolitics, using security theory, psychosocial and anthropological approaches, and relational and interpretive methodologies. She served as the CEU principal investigator in Global Norm Evolution and Responsibility to Protect project and chair of International Political Sociology section at International Studies Association. She is a co-editor-in-chief of *Journal of International Relations and Development* and sits on the editorial board of *Global Studies Quarterly* and *Global Constitutionalism*.

08:40-09:30 Discussion about localised norms implementation

Background material

Xymena Kurowska (2019) [*The politics of cyber norms: Beyond norm construction towards strategic narrative contestation*](#)