

# Closing the Risk Gap: stakeholders and emerging threats in the UN Global Mechanism.

A report from the side event on how non-governmental stakeholders can be meaningfully integrated into the permanent mechanism and its Dedicated Thematic Groups.

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## ORGANISED BY

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## IN SHORT

The Global Mechanism's efficacy will depend on effective stakeholder contributions structured around inclusive substantive and constructive dialogues with UN member states. The DTG framework creates a real opportunity to facilitate this condition, but realising it requires deliberate action from both sides, during the plenaries and ahead of them.

## CONTEXT

### From negotiation to implementation, in a fast-moving threat landscape.

The conclusion of the UN OEWG marks a transition from negotiation to implementation, taking place against a rapidly evolving threat landscape in which emerging and disruptive technologies are outpacing traditional policy and diplomatic processes.

The central question of the session was how non-governmental stakeholders can be meaningfully integrated into this new phase, given that cyberspace is ultimately designed, operated, and monitored by them, even as the process and its governance remain state-led.

The Dedicated Thematic Group structure was broadly welcomed as a meaningful upgrade over previous arrangements, filling a gap long felt in the process. Panelists noted, however, an asymmetry in how stakeholders are likely to engage across the two thematic tracks. Engagement is expected to gravitate toward the Capacity Building DTG, where the stakeholder mandate feels more natural, while the other DTG may prove harder to access due to its more politically sensitive scope.

The geopolitical climate was flagged as a complicating factor, with the risk that stakeholders could find themselves instrumentalised rather than genuinely consulted as consensus becomes harder to achieve.

Stakeholder influence is already happening, but largely invisibly. Tracing back adopted positions and agreed language often reveals the fingerprints of stakeholder input delivered through side events, bilateral conversations, and written reports.

## KEY TAKEAWAYS

### 01 Quality over presence

Impactful stakeholder contributions require delivering on substance, translating technical expertise into policy-relevant language, and demonstrating concrete value.

### 02 Diverse and neutral selection

Genuine diversity, across regions, institutional types, and capacities, is what gives engagement its legitimacy. To ensure this key condition, the selection of stakeholders should not become politicised or shaped by power dynamics.

### 03 Organise as a community

Coordinate positions, build bottom-up coalitions ahead of key moments, and engage with states early. In contrast, ad hoc, last-minute engagement limits real influence.

### 04 Make influence visible

States have a responsibility to acknowledge stakeholder input in plenary statements and DTG discussions. Giving that credit openly strengthens the case for sustained engagement.

### 05 Targeted speaking opportunities

To make the most out of stakeholder speaking opportunities, stakeholders might be tasked to provide their insights on specific issues relevant to the discussion.

### 06 Build state capacity to engage

Where the ability to engage constructively with stakeholders is limited, states should actively develop it. As a concrete next step: develop national platforms to ensure constructive dialogues between states and relevant stakeholders.