

# AFRICA'S ROLE IN GLOBAL CYBER DIPLOMACY

Breakfast discussion co-hosted by the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative and the Permanent Representation of Senegal to the UN

28 July 2022, 8:15-9:30

Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations

229 East 44<sup>th</sup> St, New York, NY 10017

*Participation in this event is by invitation only. Please register by email to **Nils Berglund** ([nils.berglund@iss.europa.eu](mailto:nil.berglund@iss.europa.eu)) before 10:00 EST on 27 July 2022 or by WhatsApp to **Bamba Gaye** +1 551 229 06 25..*

International cooperation is a fundamental precondition of technology-enabled development and an essential component of the African Union's 2063 vision for an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa. As cybersecurity has moved up in the agendas of global and regional multilateral organisations, the United Nations have increasingly become a venue for states to debate the use of digital, cyber and technology policies, while pursuing their interests and defending their values.

However, cybersecurity—and the digital, social and economic development which it underpins—are ultimately of global concern. Amid the competition for influence in cyberspace, there is a need to ensure the legitimacy and value of multilateral institutions as arbiters and opportunities for meaningful cooperation and exchange. States and regions also need to work together towards building shared strategic visions, and explore new avenues for collaboration to address the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

The purpose of this meeting is to explore ways through which African countries can play a more active role in shaping three pillars of the UN framework: 1) norms and principles of responsible state behaviour, 2) development of regional confidence-building measures, and 3) cyber capacity-building. Some of the questions that the meeting aims to address are:

1. Do the current discussion about norms of responsible state behaviour adequately reflect the positions of African countries?
2. Which norms of responsible state behaviour are particularly relevant for the African countries and why?
3. Is it possible to envisage a set of regional confidence-building measures in Africa? What could those measures be?
4. What are the concrete initiatives and actions that African countries could develop to strengthen their cooperation, both at the governmental and non-governmental level? What can be the role of external partners in this process?
5. How could cyber diplomacy capacity building be leveraged to support African states to strengthen their cybersecurity capabilities and protect their cyberspace and critical information infrastructures?



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08:15-08:25

Welcome remarks

**Ambassador Cheikh NIANG**

Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations

**Natalie TOLSTOI**

Head of Political Section, EU Delegation to the United Nations

08:25 – 09:25

Briefings and discussion

*Chair* **Patryk PAWLAK**

Executive Officer, EU Institute for Security Studies;  
Project Director, EU Cyber Direct

*Speakers* **John REYELS**

Head of Cyber Staff, Federal Foreign Office, Germany

**Ambassador Youssouph DIALLO**

Director of International Organisations and Globalisation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Senegalese Abroad, Senegal

**Mohammed Walid ALEM**

Senior Advisor on Peace and Security, African Union  
Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations

**Ambassador Nathalie JAARSMA**

Ambasador for Cyber Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
The Netherlands

09:25 – 09:30

Closing remarks



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