

# STAKEHOLDERS SUPPORTING GOVERNMENTS



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## **Intersessional multi-stakeholder meeting of the Open-ended Working Group**

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, chair. I want to highlight how think tanks with expertise in peace research and security policy across world regions, including the German Marshall Fund, can contribute to the further implementation of the norms of responsible state behavior contained in the report of the 2015 UNGGE. Within the broad stakeholder group of academia, computer science and related disciplines are most prominent in helping officials to make informed decisions on norms and government agencies to build capacities to protect critical infrastructure and design technical confidence-building measures (TCBMs). International law scholars inform the debate on the applicability of international law, and continue to help governments clarify how exactly international law applies to cyberspace. However, the deadlock of past intergovernmental negotiations highlighted the need to understand and reconcile diverging geopolitical interests often linked to entrenched conflict dynamics. Independent think tanks with expertise in peace research and security policy that are committed to the advancement of a free, open and secure cyberspace can help address this requirement in three ways:

- > Provide policy-oriented research on cyber conflict prevention, management and de-escalation, and make findings of fundamental peace research accessible to policymakers
  - For example, quantitative peace research has shown that the majority of cyber operations take place within broader interstate militarized rivalries that are difficult to resolve and recurrently escalate; promoting this research, think tanks can help governments to identify conflict hotspots with the greatest risk of escalation and the states and sectors in which the protection of critical infrastructure, capacity building and confidence-building measures (CBMs) are most urgent; and identify local needs for adequate capacity to implement the norms, including through training of diplomats in cyber diplomacy;

- similarly, research on effective CBMs in nuclearized environments can inform the debates about TCBMs,
  - finally, based on such evidence-based research, think tanks can help monitoring and regularly reporting on the progress on implementation through peer review, and make this review publicly available, which is important to increase accountability; this review can complement countries' self-reporting practices.
- > Bridge the gaps between multiple stakeholders to make implementation more holistic and increase trust and transparency
- Think tanks can create spaces in which multiple stakeholders exchange information and best practices on how to implement norms, for example by highlighting cases where norms were already successfully implemented;
  - Think tanks can also link local experiences of peace activists and parties as well as ICT response communities to global intergovernmental cyber norms development.
- > Raise public awareness and education to contribute to the socialization of norms, which is necessary to ensure the long-term compliance with implemented norms

Combined, these measures can increase transparency and accountability of on-going norms implementation processes that are the focus of the OEWG and ensure their sustainability.