OEWG Speed Dating Event: Bridging the Boundaries of Trust

Deciphering the Full Potential of Multistakeholder Involvement in Cyber Diplomacy

15 May 2024 15:00-17:00
EU Delegation to the United Nations, 666 3rd Ave, New York, NY 10017

Concept

The concept of “multistakeholderism” has earned widespread recognition for its capacity to foster collaboration and address intricate challenges, thus adding significant value to cyber diplomacy. Despite this consensus, the transition from high-level consultations and recommendations to tangible action and collaboration remains limited. The linchpin of this challenge lies in the perceived limitations of trust, which often leads to unstructured and informal cross-sectoral cooperation.

Current efforts of collaboration between diverse entities and stakeholders in cyber diplomacy have not fully tapped into the potential of cross-sectoral cooperation. It often remains on an ad hoc basis. Questions persist regarding the optimal extent of multistakeholder engagement, the inherent limitations constraining current practices, and the practical measures necessary to organize multistakeholder cooperation and facilitate deeper cross-sectoral information exchange, thereby fostering stronger alignment of priorities. Central to this effort is the imperative of cultivating trust among stakeholders.

Building upon our previous side event, ‘Hacking the Boundaries of Trust,’ we are excited to introduce a follow-up initiative that aims to take cross-sectoral understandings to the next level. Inspired by the notion that meaningful cooperation and trust-building start with a meaningful conversation, this stakeholder-government speed date event is designed to deepen engagement and foster direct dialogue between stakeholders and government officials in the realm of cyber diplomacy.

The importance of effective multistakeholder collaboration cannot be overstated. However, meaningful cooperation often hinges on more than just shared goals and objectives—it requires open lines of communication, mutual understanding, and trust among all parties involved. By providing a platform for stakeholders and government representatives to engage in direct, structured conversations, this event seeks to lay the foundation for stronger relationships and more effective collaboration in addressing cybersecurity challenges.

Format

In the spirit of fostering meaningful multistakeholder collaboration in cyber diplomacy, we propose a “speed-dating” format between representatives of each stakeholders group. The stakeholder-government speed dating event aims to facilitate short yet meaningful interactions between representatives from diverse stakeholder groups and government officials. Through a series of semi
guided one-on-one meetings, participants will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, explore potential areas of collaboration, and build trust and understanding across sectors.

Expected Outcomes

- Enhanced understanding and appreciation of the perspectives, priorities, and challenges faced by stakeholders and government officials in cyber diplomacy.
- Identification of potential areas for collaboration, partnership opportunities, and shared goals across sectors.
- Strengthened relationships, trust, and communication channels between stakeholders and government representatives.

Opening Remarks:
- Helen Popp, External Action Service of the European Union
- Julien Sylvestre Fleury, Deputy Head of Delegation, Canada

Dating coaches:
- Andrea Salvi, Project Director of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies
- Marius Houwen, Project Coordinator of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Closing Remarks:
- Andrea Salvi, Project Director of the EU Cyber Diplomacy Initiative, European Union Institute for Security Studies

Please RSVP by 14 May directly via this link.

* To ensure the success of this speed dating event, it's imperative to maintain a balanced representation across different sectors. Therefore, kindly be aware that RSVPing does not automatically guarantee participation. A confirmation email will be sent shortly to confirm or decline your attendance. Thank you for your understanding.