Proposal for the 2024 BPF: Mainstreaming capacity building for cybersecurity, trust, and safety online

Proposers/co-facilitators
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Short Description: Cybersecurity and Trust emerge as paramount concerns in the community consultation for IGF Thematic input. The topic breaks down into a complex array of issues. This intersessional activity intends to look into capacity building to enhance cybersecurity and trust.

Given the multiple capacity-building efforts, many of which address specific or sometimes overlapping issues, identifying gaps and fostering a culture of learning and continuous improvement within the cybersecurity capacity-building field are integral components of this endeavor. The aim is to provide a comprehensive overview of existing capacity-building initiatives at both regional and global levels and present them in an informative database to those seeking capacity-building. As part of the work, we expect to map out initiatives and to break down silos, discover linkages and potential gaps. This process is informed by feedback and lessons learned from the assessment of all stakeholders.

The plan is to focus on cybersecurity capacity building, however, it also includes a plan to work on two other topics in parallel if there is interest.

- **Proposal for working table 1**: Cybersecurity capacity building, covering the issues of cyber attacks and cybersecurity practices (top scores in the IGF Call for thematic input). It will address the task of mapping various initiatives for capacity building in cybersecurity at regional and global levels, finding points of union or inflection that allow for their collaboration, as well as adopting a structured approach.
- **Proposal for a working table 2 on Child online safety:** Child online safety is among the two top issues raised in the Call for thematic input. We intend to reach out to the DC on Children Rights in the Digital World and other stakeholders with a proposal to collaborate on a dedicated working table (following the plan described above)
- **Proposal for a working table 3 on streamlining cybersecurity capacity building for AI:** Considering the multitude of guidelines and frameworks issued globally, we propose analyzing how cybersecurity is addressed across these various initiatives and determining the need for capacity building. We aim to collaborate with the PNAI on this working table.
- **Proposal for working table 4 on closing the skills gap in tertiary cybersecurity education**. It will address the need to align the curricula of tertiary cybersecurity education and vocational training bodies so that they meet more directly the requirements of industry and the technical community is a longstanding challenge that has not been fully addressed. This working table will be coordinated by the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety (IS3C) and NASK.

Work plan, outreach plan, and multi-stakeholder engagement:
1) Develop a methodology for gathering, categorizing, and presenting capacity-building initiatives, considering criteria such as audience, focus areas, geographic coverage, delivery methods, and intended outcomes. [April-May]
2) Collect and organize initiatives based on the established criteria. [May August]
3) Conduct mapping and assessment discussions to identify connections, overlaps, and gaps in capacity-building efforts, while also highlighting good, positive, and negative practices. [Sept-Oct]
4) Report findings and conclusions derived from the assessment. [Nov + IGF]
5) Present an open database of capacity-building initiatives to stakeholders. [Nov + IGF]

The envisaged work plan requires different rounds of outreach:

First to raise awareness of the 2024 work plan and to collect information on capacity-building initiatives (e.g. from providers and organizers of such initiatives). The mapping and assessment discussion needs a wider outreach and stakeholder engagement (including amongst others providers and beneficiaries of initiatives, and those still looking for capacity building). Towards and after the IGF annual meeting it is key to share insights and promote the output report, findings, and the indexed overview of capacity-building initiatives. Focused outreach will include engagement with organizations and institutions involved in organizing and promoting capacity building, relevant UN bodies, National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs), other IGF intersessional activities, and IGF Dynamic Coalitions. We envisage that with the support of the coordinators to participate in events such as the WSIS Forum 2024 (27 to 31 May), the Annual FIRST conference (9 to 14 June), AfIGF, and similar gatherings.