Input from the BPF Cybersecurity to the **Informal Dialogue with the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies 2021-2025.**
21 July 2022

A few words about the Best Practice Forum:

The Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity is a multistakeholder workstream intersessional of the Internet Governance Forum which brings together a range of experts from all stakeholder groups. For the last three years we have focused on investigating cyber norms development across all stakeholder groups.

Over the past few years, the OEWG has recognised the importance of capacity building to support states to implement the 11 agreed norms. Research is important to that capacity building, to ensure - as is recognised in the principles for capacity building adopted in the previous OEWG's report which states that capacity building should be evidence based. The principles state "Capacity-building activities should be evidence-based, politically neutral, transparent, accountable, and without conditions".

Recent work and relevance to OEWG:

Over the past few years the BPF has researched and provided in-depth analysis of international cyber norms agreements -- identifying commonalities across agreements and analysing the drivers of success in norms development and implementation. We have also investigated the development of norms outside of the cyber realm, to see what lessons can be learned to help improve cyber norms development. These analyses should serve as a valuable resource to this OEWG as it works to build upon existing international expectations to advance a rules-based order in cyberspace based on responsible state behavior.

2021 research/conclusions:

The most recent efforts of the BPF, available on the IGF website, catalogue existing international agreements on cyber norms, the trends in norms development over time, and their potential impact against historical cyber incidents. Some of the more pertinent takeaways of this work includes:

- Looking across 36 different international agreements on cyber norms, dating back to 2008, commitments to cooperation in securing cyberspace and protecting human rights were some of the most prominent elements reflected in all agreements – suggesting a consensus that human rights and cooperation remain at the core of these efforts.
- Meanwhile, what has been much less common in these agreements thus far, however, have been specific commitments to restraint in the development and use of offensive cyber capabilities by all actors. This is one area where the OEWG could set new precedent in being more clear in the kinds of actions that are expressly prohibited by either existing or new international cyber norms for responsible state behavior.
- The BPF also considered nine historical case studies of major cyber incidents and determined that existing international norms would have helped mitigate many of the most notorious historical cyberincidents. However, each analysis also uncovered a missing nuance related to things like the need for deeper stakeholder involvement or the application of existing legal frameworks.

The BPF continues its efforts in 2022, analysing additional norms agreements and case studies of cybersecurity events.

Conclusion:

The work of the BPF is unique and illustrates the value of multistakeholder engagement, particularly the roles of different stakeholders in socialising norms, supporting their implementation through specific, concrete analysis and ensuring that implementation is evidence-based and informed by their impact on humans. This work will help ensure implementation of the acquis going forward, a key priority for this OEWG, is effective. We encourage member state representatives to take time to engage with the recent outputs of the BPF and follow up with any questions, and we look forward to future opportunities to engage with the OEWG as the process moves forward.

Speaking notes as delivered by Ms Sheetal Kumar, Global Partners Digital, on behalf of the BPF Cybersecurity.

More information on the IGF Best Practice Forum Cybersecurity at
https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/bpf-cybersecurity