IGF 2017 - OAS Open Forum

Session Title: OAS/OEA and the promotion of National Cybersecurity Strategies in the Americas

Date: Wednesday, December 20, 2017

Time: from 16:10 to 17:10

Session Organizer: Belisario Contreras, Cybersecurity Program Manager, Organization of American States (OAS)

Chair/Moderator: Belisario Contreras, OAS Cybersecurity Program Manager

Rapporteur/Notetaker: Barbara Marchiori de Assis, OAS Cybersecurity Program Officer

List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:
- Rob Strayer, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communication and Information Policy, US Department of State
- Victor Lagunes, Chief Information Officer (CIO), Presidency of Mexico
- Laurent Bernat, Cyber Security and Privacy Risk Policy Analyst, OECD
- Belisario Contreras, Cybersecurity Program Manager, OAS
- Barbara Marchiori de Assis, Cybersecurity Program Officer, OAS

Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- The representative of the OAS Cybersecurity Program briefly explained the methodology employed by the organization in the development of national cybersecurity strategies in the Americas.
- Mexico's CIO described the different stages for the development of the country's national cybersecurity strategy, stressing the importance of building trust and fostering multi-stakeholder engagement throughout the entire process.
- The representative of the US Department of State described the support provided by the US Department to improve cybersecurity capacity at the international level.
- The representative of the OECD explained the organization's work on cybersecurity and privacy matters, and the support provided to Mexico through the missions organized by the OAS Cybersecurity Program.

If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:
The Government of Mexico delivered a presentation about the main points covered by their National Cybersecurity Strategy, challenges and lessons learned throughout the process.

Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):
During the Open Forum it was stressed the importance of building trust and of fostering a multi-stakeholder engagement throughout the process for the development of a national cybersecurity strategy, as well as the importance of working to reach common grounds. Additionally, speakers pointed out the many topics that can be covered by national cybersecurity strategies and, as consequence, the need to define priority areas.

It was also discussed how cybersecurity must be viewed from a comprehensive perspective, focusing not only on fighting cybercrime, but also on country's social and economic prosperity. Moreover, Governments should take into account risk management considerations. That is, Government should address cybersecurity through a risk-based approach, in which risk is reduced to an acceptable level without undermining the full potential of the digital environment.

Finally, given that cybersecurity is a shared responsibility, it was stressed the importance of cooperation among different stakeholders. Trust should be the input and outcome of national cybersecurity strategies. To this end, it is essential to encourage meaningful and longstanding partnerships among stakeholders.

Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs): Potential next steps would be to improve multi-stakeholder active participation in the implementation of the cybersecurity strategy; thereby, the importance of creating an institutional/governance model for cybersecurity with a functioning and effective multi-stakeholder approach.

Gender Reporting

Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 20 participants

Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 10 participants

To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment? N/A

If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion: N/A