Mainstreaming capacity building for cybersecurity, trust and safety online

Proposers/co-facilitators
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Model of intersessional work: Best Practice Forum

Short Description:
Cybersecurity and Trust emerge as paramount concerns in the community consultation for IGF Thematic input. 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. The aim is to provide a comprehensive overview of the 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 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.

- Working table 1: Cybersecurity capacity building - Covering the issues 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 level, with the aim of finding points of union or inflection that allow for their collaboration, as well as adopt 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 below)
- Proposal working table 3 on streamlining cybersecurity capacity building for AI: Considering the multitude of guidelines and frameworks issued globally, we propose conducting an analysis on 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.

Work plan
1. Develop a methodology for gathering, categorizing, and presenting capacity building initiatives, considering criteria such as audience, focus areas, geographic coverage and intended outcomes.
2. Collect and organize initiatives based on the established criteria.
3. Conduct mapping and assessment discussions to identify connections, overlaps, and gaps in capacity building efforts, while also highlighting good, positive and negative practices.
4. Report findings and conclusions derived from the assessment.
5. Present an open database of capacity building initiatives to stakeholders.

Tentative timeline
(1.) Apr-May, (2.) May-Aug, (3.) Sept-Oct, (4.) Nov + annual IGF.

Outreach plan and stakeholder engagement
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.
- The mapping and assessment discussion needs a wider outreach and stakeholder engagement
- 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 involved in organizing and promoting capacity building, relevant UN bodies, NNRIs, IGFs, 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), Annual FIRST conference (9 to 14 June), AfiGF, and similar gatherings.