



Fact Sheet: Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace

June 2018

What is the Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace?

The Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace aims to analyse the roles and responsibilities of states, industry actors and civil society, academic and tech communities in contributing to greater security and stability in cyberspace.

The dialogue is led by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) in cooperation with the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), ETH Zurich, and the University of Lausanne.

Why is this dialogue important?

While cyberspace and ICT can deliver significant benefits to society, the growing use of ICT by State and non-State actors for malicious purposes – threatening not only peace and security but also the entire digital society and economy – is of significant concern to the international community. Promoting the responsible behaviour of all actors is key to ensuring a peaceful, secure and stable cyberspace. To date, most efforts have focused predominantly on identifying norms of responsible State behaviour (for instance, the work of the UN General Assembly First Committee's Groups of Governmental Experts (UNGGE)). These efforts have led to important results, even if greater awareness around the norms and their implementation is still required. There is also less clarity on the roles and responsibilities of other actors and how they, too, are contributing - or can contribute - to greater stability and security in cyberspace, as recommended in the GGE reports. This is due in part to the fact that discussions on cyberspace and international security often occur in institutional and thematic silos leaving little room to share views and broaden the discussion on responsible behaviour in cyberspace.

The Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace aims to map the roles and responsibilities of states, industry and other key actors in contributing to greater security and stability in cyberspace; identify good practices and possible gaps in existing efforts; and put forward recommendations for overcoming such gaps. The dialogue will complement existing initiatives and aims to provide additional insights and recommendations on how different actors can contribute to greater stability and security in cyberspace.

What are the main goals of the dialogue?

The goals of the dialogue are threefold. It will:

- Map the roles and responsibilities of different actors in contributing to greater security and stability in cyberspace; identify good practices; and put forward recommendations for overcoming identified gaps. This phase of the initiative will be implemented through targeted interaction with representatives from each stakeholder group and additional research.
- Provide a platform in Geneva through which different stakeholders can engage in the discussions.

- Contribute to achieving the vision of an open, secure, stable, accessible, and peaceful cyberspace, and reduce the risks to international peace and security by providing additional insights into the responsibilities of different actors and their roles in contributing to greater security and stability in cyberspace.

Implementation modalities

The Geneva Dialogue on Responsible Behaviour in Cyberspace was launched in spring 2018. It is led by a core group involving the Swiss FDFA, GIP, UNIDIR, ETH Zurich and the University of Lausanne.

The dialogue includes desk research and interviews, a series of online and *in situ* discussions and knowledge exchange activities, and a series of workshops in Geneva on **1 and 2 November 2018**.

How can you participate in this dialogue?

Switzerland invites states, the private sector, the tech community, civil society, academia, cybersecurity experts and other interested parties to participate in this dialogue either by joining online discussions or by contributing to the workshops in November 2018.

If you are interested in contributing to the dialogue, we invite you to send a brief description of the work your institution is currently undertaking related to cyberspace and international security and stability.

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