



Position of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for the purpose of the conference held by Forum for 21st Century on 29 November 2011 reflected in the first draft of the negotiation paper, regarding the global cyber security issues.

The UK would like to thank the Forum for 21st Century for initiating the discussion and organizing the conference on global cybersecurity issues. The UK fully supports all efforts aimed at safer and more effectively working cyberspace.

After an in-depth analysis of the draft proposed by the Forum for 21st Century, the UK has come to following conclusions and suggestions.

Introduction

- ❖ Cyber-based systems play an ever-increasing part in our lives and underpin existence of humankind in 21st century. Individuals, states as well as whole international community are faced by a number of new challenges arising from cyberspace.
- ❖ UK recognises the unique and complex nature of cyberspace as a space without national borders but global impact, where vulnerabilities and risks are shared by all. Being global, the need to address cyberspace regulatory gaps and shortcomings must be reflected in collective response of the whole international community as to shape a shared vision for cyberspace's future. UK is ready to play its part.

Position to proposals

- ❖ UK is convinced that a comprehensive and structured dialogue paves the way toward building a consensus among like-minded nations and lays the basis for agreement on a set of standards on how countries should act in cyberspace.
Therefore UK welcomes and expresses its full support to the initiative to attempt to find an international agreement on the norms of behavior in cyberspace, both in regard to countering cyber threats and upholding freedom of expression.
In UK's view, seven principles should underpin future international norms about the use of cyberspace:
 - The need for governments to act proportionately in cyber space and in accordance with national and international law
 - The need for everyone to have the ability to access cyber space
 - The need for users to show tolerance and respect for diversity of language, culture and ideas



The Model Conference Global Security Issues

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- Ensuring that cyber space remains open to innovation and the free flow of ideas, information and expression
- The need to respect individual right of privacy and to provide proper protection to intellectual property
- Collective approach to tackling the threats arising from criminals acting online
- Promotion of competitive environment which ensures a fair return on investment in network, services and content

UK is hosting an international conference to discuss the norms of acceptable behavior in cyberspace in early November this year. UK is also convinced that The Forum for 21st Century's conference can build upon and expand the firm foundations laid by the outcomes of this conference.

- 🇬🇧 UK recognises cyberspace as a new domain in warfare, where cyber capabilities will complement to traditional military capabilities. As one of the top end countries in the world most likely to become a target of a cyber attack, UK expresses its full support for the proposal for reaching an agreement on the international thresholds for circumstances under which a cyber attack would be classed as an act of aggression as well as looking into proportionality of a defensive response. Until such thresholds are agreed upon, the UK will rely upon, and if necessary turn for help to NATO, which already has the authority to respond immediately to cyber attacks on its Member States and to deploy support teams.

As to the consequences for a state refuting the allegations of having conducted a cyber attack against another state, the UK stresses that any such a measure must find its backing in international law presently in force. Furthermore it must be stressed that such a measure, if not sufficiently regulated by the law, could be abused by any state as means by which to achieve its objectives in international affairs.

- 🇬🇧 UK supports the proposal of establishing a joint international cooperative information database of cyber offenders as such initiative addresses the current need for greater international cooperation in cyber activities. Intelligence sharing is an effective way of mitigating the cybercrime threats and a stepping stone on a way to fostering stronger partnerships among like-minded nations.

Suggestions

- 🇬🇧 It's a matter of fact, that in many countries including UK, a significant proportion of national critical infrastructure is privately owned. Taking this fact into consideration, it is a UK's firm belief that the broader engagement of stakeholders is of a crucial importance. Key representatives of private sector and academia should be active parties with a strong voice to not only this, but every future discussion on cyberspace, as to ensure that the outcomes will



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address shortcomings and risks of cyberspace in all its complexity and that they will be functional and effective when faced by everyday challenges.

Summary and conclusions

- It is a shared responsibility of us all to embrace the challenges posed by cyberspace – to reduce risks, seize opportunities and ensure that the right capabilities and legal framework are in place to safeguard our security and freedom in both online and offline world. Given the global and interconnected nature of cyberspace, close international cooperation and collective response are of vital importance as to deliver solutions with real political and diplomatic force. UK as one of Europe's leading cyber security advocates is determined to be at the forefront of efforts to shape a shared vision of cyberspace's future.