



OEWG Side Event: An action-oriented approach to cyber threats: how to tackle emerging threats within the future UN mechanism.

**Tuesday 14 May 2024 at 13:15 – 14:30,
UNHQ, Room 8 (hybrid event)**

The landscape of cyber threats is rapidly evolving, marked by the increasing complexity of cyber attacks and the blurring lines between state-sponsored and criminal activities. The Open-Ended Working Group on security of and in the use of information and communications technologies (ICTs) 2021-2025 (OEWG), has been instrumental in addressing challenges, offering a forum for international cooperation and dialogue. The discussion on cyber threats within the OEWG's substantive sessions has consistently recorded a large number of national statements. Against this backdrop, the European Union Institute for Security Studies and the European Union are organising a cross-regional side event that proposes to deepen the understanding on how to foster collaborative approaches to understand and combat evolving threats, focusing on the intersections of ICTs, international security, and diplomacy, and to contribute to the multilateral discussion by reporting back to the OEWG on the substantive exchanges enabled by this side event.

Context

The cyber threat landscape is becoming increasingly sophisticated, with ransomware attacks targeting essential sectors such as healthcare, demonstrating not only a significant number of incidents but also impacts on international peace and security. Such incidents underscore the urgent need for enhanced cyber resilience. Additionally, the rise of state-sponsored cyber activities targeting critical infrastructure and undermining democratic processes poses a grave concern, necessitating a concerted global response.

This evolving landscape is further complicated by the advent of emerging disruptive technologies (EDTs), such as artificial intelligence (AI), which many countries have highlighted, advocating for more substantial discussions on their implications within OEWG. The side event will center around the guiding question: **"What should be the key features of the future UN mechanism to best advance action-oriented discussions on rapidly evolving cyber threats and to enhance cooperation for cyber resilience?"**





Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The primary objective of this side event is to facilitate an inclusive exchange on the most appropriate institutional framework to foster robust international collaboration and dialogue to address current and emerging cyber threats. Specifically, the event aims to:

- Explore how the evolution of current and emerging disruptive threats such as AI informs the design of the action-oriented, inclusive and permanent mechanism to hold discussions on cybersecurity at the UN from 2025 onward.
- Collect cross-regional views on how this mechanism can foster international cooperation, including through cyber capacity-building to anticipate emerging threats and with particular attention to the creation of technical working groups within this mechanism that can develop "granular" solutions.

By engaging with the guiding questions, the event aims at generating actionable recommendations for incorporating the impact of emerging threats into OEWG discussions and into the the future mechanism for regular institutional dialogue (RID). A summary report outlining the event's key discussion will be circulated in the OEWG to contribute to upcoming discussions on threats and RID.

Panelists:

- **Aamna Rafiq**, Researcher (Cyber), Security and Technology Programme, UNIDIR
- **Léonard Rolland**, Head of Cybersecurity Under-Directorate, Directorate of Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament, France
- **Larissa Schneider Calza**, Head of the Cyber Defense and Security Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- **Eugene EG Tan**, Associate Research Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security, RSIS, Singapore

Moderated by Andrea Salvi, Senior Analyst and Project Director, European Union Institute of Security Studies

Please RSVP by 13 of May 2024 via this [link](#).

Light Lunch will be served.

