

IGF 2020 Best Practice Forum Cybersecurity

Feedback on Draft outputs and Call for contributions

The Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity is calling for input for its 2020 effort. Input will feed into the BPF discussions, the BPF workshop during the virtual IGF2020 and this year's BPF output report.

Introduction

The IGF Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity is a multistakeholder group focusing on identifying best practices in Cybersecurity.

Last year, the BPF published research to identify best practices related to the implementation, operationalization, and support of different principles, norms, and policy approaches contained in these international agreements and initiatives by individual signatories and stakeholders. Amongst others, these agreements include the Paris Call for Trust and Cybersecurity in Cyberspace, the Tech Accord, the Agreement on cooperation in ensuring the International Information Security between the Member States of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the 2015 UNGGE proposed norms. In 2020, the BPF Cybersecurity is building on its 2019 report by focusing on identifying additional international agreements and initiatives on cybersecurity, and performing a deeper analysis of a narrower set of agreements. In this deeper analysis, we're looking specifically at whether the agreement includes any of the UN-GGE consensus norms; and whether any additional norms are specifically called out. The narrower set of agreements is focused on those that are specifically normative, rather than having directly enforceable commitments.

For a better understanding of the types of agreements we are investigating, we recommend reading the research paper prepared by the BPF's workstream 1: Exploring Best Practices in Relation to International Cybersecurity Agreements (.pdf).

If you're interested in the broader topic of norms development and norms assessment in global governance, we recommend the excellent background paper 'What Cybersecurity Policymaking Can Learn from Normative Principles in Global Governance' (.pdf) published by the BPF's workstream 2.

Contribution received from Tim Maurer

I have just taken a look at the draft documents; they are a good overview. With that said, I find it a bit odd that there is no reference to Carnegie's Cyber Norms Index anywhere despite its existence since 2017. As you know from the roundtable we recently hosted, it is the most comprehensive and detailed resource for the very agreements the Forum is focusing on, which is also the reason why the UN is now partnering with us on this. I find it also surprising that Carnegie's work on cyber norms isn't mentioned whereas other similar initiatives like the Hague Program or Global Partners work are explicitly listed despite the program making reference to our nonresident scholars Finnemore and Hollis and recent paper.

In short, following a first quick review of these, I'd encourage these additions and would then be happy

to take a closer look and share feedback.

The Index will be back online later this month. We just took it offline for two months while we were doing the update. Here is the permanent link you can

use: https://carnegieendowment.org/publications/interactive/cybernorms

You can reference it as Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 'Cyber Norms Index', https://carnegieendowment.org/publications/interactive/cybernorms

In terms of other feedback, my main comment is that it would be helpful to clarify a bit more how specific texts were selected. I noticed several documents refer to cybercrime but the document is about cyber norms with the latter usually being considered about international peace and security rather than cybercrime at least within the UN Context.