Meeting Report
First Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA)
5 October 2007
ITU Headquarters

Please send any comments you may have on this Meeting Report to gca@itu.int

1. Purpose of this Report

ITU launched the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) on 17 May 2007. The First Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG) of the GCA was held on 5 October 2007 at ITU Headquarters, Geneva, Switzerland. Around sixty experts from governments, industry, international organizations, research and academic institutions and individual experts participated in the meeting. Full documentation for the meeting, including the agenda, presentations, background papers and audio archives are available at: http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/cybersecurity/gca/hleg/first_meeting/. This Report summarizes the discussions and presents key proposals for the next steps of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda.

2. Welcome and Introductory Remarks by Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré, ITU Secretary-General

Dr. Touré welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked them for their support. He underlined that the Global Cybersecurity Agenda is a vital initiative for the ITU, which is working hard to address new and emerging challenges of the Information Society. He introduced His Excellency, the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications of Estonia, Mr. Juhan Parts.

Dr. Touré emphasized the following key points:

- ICTs are an engine of economic growth, as well as a vital enabler of communications;
- The Information Society is growing fast: we are engaged in a fierce battle for its future integrity;
- The future growth potential of the Internet is in danger from growing cyberthreats, which are growing in scope and damaging impact, as well as in number; and
- Countries can no longer close their borders to cyberattacks.

The growing availability of the Internet in nearly all countries means that hackers can now roam online freely to exploit vulnerabilities and attack with impunity, regardless of location. Dr. Touré stressed that cyberthreats have become an international problem, requiring a coordinated international response. With its 191 Member States and over 700 Sector Members, ITU is uniquely well-positioned to coordinate this international response. Dr. Touré told the participants that complex problems demand expert solutions and invited the assembled experts to the First Meeting of the High-Level Experts Group to act as a multi-stakeholder, independent advisory board on the complex issues emerging in cybersecurity. The outcomes of this First Meeting will guide the work of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda. Dr. Touré introduced the Chairman of the Meeting, Mr. Stein Schjolberg.

3. Appointment of the Chairman

Mr. Stein Schjolberg, Judge at the Moss District Court, Norway, was nominated Chairman of the Meeting. He acknowledged the honor of having been invited to serve as the Chairman of the Group. He has been working in the field of cybercrime legislation since 1976 and is very impressed by this initiative of the ITU. He asked all concerned to give their utmost efforts in advising the ITU Secretary-General on the next steps forward to promote cybersecurity.

4. Keynote Address by H.E. Mr. Juhan Parts, Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications, Estonia

The Minister acknowledged the honor of being invited to address the meeting and reminded participants that they had gathered to propose strategies aimed at enhancing cybersecurity. The Internet has grown to become the mainstream medium, not merely an alternative, for information exchange in education and health. Estonia has pioneered development and societal processes involving the Internet: for example, 87 per cent of tax returns are made over the Internet and the country employs secure electronic voting. At the same time, Estonia is facing new challenges in threats and emerging problems that have to be solved. In April and May of this year, Estonia successfully coped with extensive cyberattacks.

Building and maintaining trust among users is essential; as stated in the Geneva Declaration of Principles, a global culture of cybersecurity needs to be promoted, implemented and developed in cooperation with all stakeholders. The Minister proposed the following principles for developing cybersecurity:

1. Success in securing cyberspace cannot be achieved by governments alone. Public processes can only create an enabling environment, but the private sector has to be involved, with many different stakeholders.
2. Cooperation between the various stakeholders is vital to avoid duplication and overlap.
3. The fight against cyberthreats cannot form the basis for the recognition of human rights and expression; the free flow of information and expression must be respected.
4. Many of the elements needed to enhance global cybersecurity are already in place. Others will have to be implemented practically. In a global village, all elements must be coordinated.
5. As Bruce Schneier said, there is no such thing as security in obscurity; problems must be discussed openly.

5. Special Message from the Patron of the Cybersecurity Agenda, Dr. Arias Sánchez, President of the Republic of Costa Rica

The Representative from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Costa Rica in Geneva delivered a special message from Dr. Óscar Arias Sánchez, President of the Republic of Costa Rica and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, who regretted that he was unable to participate in the First Meeting of the HLEG. Dr. Arias recognized the urgent need for an international framework providing international principles and allowing rapid coordination between countries at the regional and global levels. Dr. Arias expressed his sincere hope that this First Meeting would yield fruitful outcomes in terms of a work programme and clear working methods to enable everyone to move forward with the Global Cybersecurity Agenda.

6. Overview of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA) and the Role of the High-Level Experts Group (HLEG)

ITU Corporate Strategy Division gave an overview of the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA), a framework for international cooperation in cybersecurity, emphasizing that threats to global cybersecurity demand global solutions, to ensure that there are no safe havens for cybercriminals. ITU is the international forum in which actions and responses to promote cybersecurity and tackle cybercrime can be addressed. The overview of GCA highlighted the important role to be played by the High-Level Experts Group in providing expert advice to ITU Secretary-General and elaborating a roadmap for meeting the goals of the GCA. To organize the work of this group, ITU Corporate Strategy Division proposed three work areas (Legal Framework, Technical Measures and Organizational Structures), with two additional cross-cutting work areas (capacity-building and international cooperation).

7. Open Debate

Cybercrime is a public issue and politicians suffer the danger of a double illusion. On the one hand, there is the illusion that politicians control crime, but conversely, to the dangers and risks of cyberthreats may be overstated. From a political point of view, judicial punishment acts as deterrent to further crime. Cybercrime is carried over the Internet, but it also affects it - it is at the same time the media and the message.

It was suggested to focus on the key cybercrime issues of:

1. Viruses and cyber-attacks,.
2. Attacks on the physical and psychological integrity of children, including child pornography and child prostitution. Experts should explain the links between child pornography and prostitution, money-laundering and the black market and not just be content with communicating the facts.
3. Experts should not use pre-web instruments. Responses to cybercrime must be creative, provocative and effective.. Experts must work together – collaboration is vital.
4. A suggestion was made to develop a strategy for diffusing technical expertise and know-how, to be presented at the next HLEG meeting.

It was noted that cybersecurity is interlinked with grey traffic and other activities. These activities often happen in countries where licensing rules are limited and number-stripping is prevalent, so cybercriminals can operate without being detected. Prevention is a key factor for all countries, as many countries do not have the same maturity concerning cybersecurity.

The example of the ISO 27002 approach was raised to suggest a national cybersecurity framework which could be used for a majority of countries. However, this must begin with government awareness of key organizational structures within each country and a national cybersecurity policy model.

It was suggested that it would be useful if the ITU could develop and distribute specific guidance on cybersecurity, in line with its mandate under Action Line C5 of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action 2003. The C5 action line is closely related with both capacity-building and international cooperation. All five work areas need to be considered, in line with the comprehensive approach of the GCA.

It is vital that the HLEG should remain an open initiative, so experts can share their ideas. Its structure should be open to allow communication between experts. The work of HLEG should be consistent with the existing authority and mandate of the ITU. Input and other contributions can be made through an online platform in each of the five work areas. It was suggested that five wikis could be set up reflecting the five work areas, with open editing for different opinions. Sub-categories can be set out in each wiki

which could set out the scope, but allow ITU to add more detail. It was suggested that five volunteers should head each of the work areas in order to lead wiki/email discussions and prepare a paper on each work area for the next HLEG meeting. Basic threat/risk assessment is vital, as this would help to inform structure, expenditure, framework and measures (threat analysis would be particularly important in work area 3). Home countries may wish to add something at a later date, so there should be the opportunity to prepare and circulate additional papers before the next meeting.

A target date of two weeks was set for the ITU to get back to HLEG with a list of HLEG member CVs, so that experts can get to know each other. A section for members will be set up so that they can work as a group. The next meeting will be in May 2008 and those who will act as leaders should have that in mind so that interim papers for discussion can be circulated to the different members of HLEG to discuss in a timely fashion.

8. Outcomes of the Meeting

During the open discussion, a common understanding was reached on the next steps to move forward with the GCA. It was proposed that the HLEG will focus on all five work areas. The Proposed Work Plan document was revised:

- Work area 1, "Legal Framework," was renamed "Legal Measures".
- Work area 2, "Technical Measures," was renamed "Technical and Procedural Measures".
- Work area 3 was maintained as "Organizational Structures".
- Reports are needed in work areas 4 and 5, "Capacity-Building" and "International Cooperation".

In order to deliver strategic reports in all five work areas, five experts were designated:

- Legal Measures: Mr. Stein Schjolberg, Judge at the Moss District Court, Norway.
- Technical and Procedural Measures: Mr. Jaak Tepandi, Professor of Knowledge Based Systems, Institute of Informatics, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia and Mr. Justin Rattner, Chief Technology Officer, Intel Corp.
- Organizational Structures: Mr. Taïeb Debbagh, Secretary-General, Département de la Poste, des Télécommunications et des Technologies de l'Information (DEPTTI), Kingdom of Morocco.
- Capacity-Building: Mr. Ivar Tallo, Senior Programme Officer, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).
- International Cooperation: Mr. Shamsul Jafni Shafie, Director, Security, Trust and Governance Department, Content, Consumer and Network Security Division, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission and Mr. Zane Cleophas, Chief Director, Border Control Operational Coordinating Committee (BCOCC), Department of Home Affairs of South Africa.

The expected deliverables are five strategic reports, with one consolidated global strategic report to be delivered to the ITU Secretary-General on how best to achieve the seven strategic goals of the GCA. An HLEG Member area can be found at http://groups.itu.int/gcahleg.
A wiki-based collaboration website for the HLEG members has been created and is available at:
http://www.ituwiki.com/index.php?title=High-Level_Experts_Group_%28HLEG%29

9. Closing Remarks by the ITU Secretary-General

The ITU Secretary-General, Dr. Touré, thanked all participants for their time and efforts. He expressed his confidence in participants' abilities and his warm appreciation of the role played by the Chairman.