

## **CHAIR'S CLOSING STATEMENT**

Dear Participants,

I would like to start my closing remarks thanking the Government of the United Kingdom for launching this series of global conferences dialogue on norms of behaviour on cyberspace, and the Government of Korea for taking it forward from here. I would also like to thank all the participants for having come to Budapest.

The Budapest Conference, bringing together leaders from governments and industry, the Internet technical community, civil society and youth from around the globe, serves this global dialogue. With over 600 participants from 60 countries, 20 international organisations, dozens of companies, NGOs, representatives of the academia, we have attracted wide interest.

The Internet is an unrivalled source of creativity, economic opportunity and dynamism globally. The value it holds in promoting social and economic benefits are recognised by all. We are also aware of the serious threat of cybercrime and abuse of cyberspace. This is reflected in our motto: "With Trust and Security for Freedom and Prosperity".

Our aim is to find consensus along shared principles and to set out the agenda for how to build a secure, resilient and trusted global digital environment as defined in London. We have to find the right balance between sharing the benefits of the digital age and striving to minimise the risks, without undermining our commitment to fundamental freedoms.

We have made good progress over the last year. The UN has begun work on norms for behaviour in cyberspace including at the Human Rights Council and in the Government Group of Experts; this demonstrates that countries with different positions are able to cooperate. OECD policy principles have established a benchmark to pursue an open Internet where barriers to entry are low. The Den Haag Conference Declaration established a cross-regional coalition of countries to protect and promote freedom of expression online. The Council of Europe has driven further implementation of the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime. There has been increasing agreement between members of the OSCE and ASEAN Regional Forum on how to develop confidence-building measures to reduce the risk of unintended conflict between states.

Our conference has been inspiring and has presented an optimistic vision.

Delegates recognised the economic and social benefits of cyberspace, increasing everyone's ability to create and to innovate, facilitating a global division of labour, giving visibility and access to markets in remote corners of the world. There is a clear consensus that the Internet is a crucial contributor to economic growth and a key driver of gains in productivity globally. New and increasingly affordable technologies such as mobile Internet are opening up new possibilities, narrowing the digital divide. In developing countries these new technologies are driving progress in, and access to, education, healthcare and financial services helping us reducing poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

We now have to broaden access to E-communication. It is our joint responsibility to ensure that the Internet remains open; and people can use services and applications, can decide on the ways to get connected, the only restrictions being those for their safety and privacy.

Several delegates noted that the Internet is also a tool of good governance, promoting transparency and accountability, serving democracy. I welcome the announcement by the President of ICANN to shift their centre of gravity towards their global stakeholder base and to encourage greater participation across the world. Many expressed support for the principle that rights to freedom of expression and association apply with equal force in cyber space. Digital space cannot really be dissociated from real space. When we talk about the freedom of the Internet we are talking about the freedom of people in the real world.

Cyberspace can also offer itself to hate, terrorism and crime. Delegates recognised the need to protect people from these and called for a respect for diversity of language, culture and ideas; but this should not extinguish the right to freedom of expression and association. Several delegates highlighted the challenges we are facing in making sure cyberspace remains a force for good, preserving its creativity and openness. Views differed on how to defuse the tension between the borderless nature of cyberspace and state sovereignty. The host of the London Cyber Conference suggested to „err on the side of freedom”. Delegates stressed that the peaceful use of cyberspace is our common interest.

The need to share the economic benefits of cyberspace, reaching the broadest number of people was widely recognized. Many contributions pointed to a growing body of evidence on how best to spread these. OECD presented a study highlighting the significant contribution Internet companies continue to make to growth and job creation. Delegates commented that we need further cyber capacity-building to help countries derive all the potential benefits offered by the Internet.

At the global level, falling costs and new technologies are already increasing access for businesses and individuals at affordable prices. We must support these developments and encourage further investment in digital infrastructure. Many delegates have said the best way of doing this is creating an open and competitive environment with fair returns, a higher level of competition offering faster service and more affordable prices. This will in turn develop a broad range of digital content and innovative applications and services.

Transparency is needed in our handling of privacy and data protection issues. Many participants noted that freedom and security in cyberspace are not incompatible. We need to maintain high levels of trust towards cyberspace for it to continue to be a catalyst of innovation and new ways of doing business.

Delegates agreed on the urgent need to protect users against abuse. We know that the number of cyber-attacks is reaching levels never seen before. Participants pointed out that the victims are governments, businesses, but most often ordinary users. We must not forget that when we talk about cyberspace we talk about real people, not something that only exists virtually. We should be particularly aware of the need to protect our children. Delegates agreed that we need mechanisms to protect the integrity of online transactions from fraud. They have expressed their sentiment that in order to benefit from the opportunities presented by cyberspace more needs to be done on global cyber security capacity-building.

There is a need for humility on the part of governments and an acceptance that there are limits to state power. The multi-stakeholder structure explains the Internet's openness which makes it such a powerful platform for innovation and empowerment. There was support for the principle that cyberspace must remain open to innovation and the free flow of ideas, information and expression. Delegates highlighted that there is a need for flexibility: overprotection is both too costly and wasteful. There was overwhelming support that setting standards and norms for the future of cyberspace is the joint responsibility of all stakeholders. Some delegates called for wider international participation in the management of critical global Internet resources. Many expressed the need to continue our open and inclusive dialogue and make sure all views are heard.

It is a general understanding that stronger co-operation and collaboration is needed to build confidence and trust, and to avoid problems arising from misunderstandings. Government

actions need to be proportionate and existing rules of international law and the traditional norms governing interstate relations apply to cyberspace. All governments must conduct themselves in a manner which does not hinder international peace, security and justice. Many stressed the need for mechanisms to incorporate the views of civil society, industry and other NGOs in the international security debate. Participants highlighted the need for broader cooperation, and for a responsible attitude and willingness to compromise by all states. Many called on governments to have actionable and consistent rules for cyber security and enhanced, regular communications. Even if reaching consensus on everything is not possible, we need a way forward through solutions that, while not perfect, are acceptable to all. Some delegates noted that problems we did not solve offline will not be solved online, yet there is a need for continued trust-building. International and regional organisations provide good forums for continued cooperation. I welcome Korea's initiative for increased cooperation in establishing crisis communication channels and supporting capacity-building.

Everyone agreed to maintain and strengthen a secure, resilient and trusted global digital environment. A consensus emerged around the importance of collective action on cybercrime by all stakeholders. Norms governing behaviour online are the same as offline, and what is unacceptable offline is unacceptable online. There was general agreement that all stakeholders, users, companies as well as government share responsibility in preventive action on cybercrime. We need to recognise the important contribution from industry and civil society. Industry has a key role in developing products, standards and systems with improved security. Academia also has an important contribution to make.

The conference has reinforced our willingness and readiness to focus on creating and safeguarding a reliable and secure cyberspace. We need to continue promoting greater collaboration between states to fight cyber-crime, which affects all of us, and does not respect borders. I welcome the creation of the new Europol and Interpol centres on cyber security, as well as the new UK Centre of Excellence to advance international cooperation and capacity-building.

Delegates have expressed support for fighting online crime. The Budapest Convention on Cybercrime sets principles for this fight. A number of delegates have called to widen membership and broaden international cooperation based on these principles. This convention is still the best and most comprehensive international agreement serving as a legal basis for cooperation.

Distinguished Participants,

As we close our conference here in Budapest, I am happy to observe some generally accepted points:

- The Internet is for everyone, and everyone is a stakeholder.
- Broadband and capacity-building are keys to economic and social usefulness. Several important initiatives were identified and new ones launched here.
- Openness is a key to further progress.
- International cooperation is needed, and offline laws and norms must apply.
- We should continue our dialogue and make it even more inclusive. I encourage more countries to engage in the lead-up to next year's conference.
- We should include the next generations, which is why I am particularly happy about the great contribution the Youth Forum has provided to our work.

These are first impressions, and I encourage you to look up the chair's closing statement on our website later.

I would now like to thank all your contributions that allowed for a very high quality debate, and to express our willingness to work further with all of you. I think we have succeeded elaborating further the themes discussed in London and identified the ground that will need to be covered on the way leading toward further, tangible outcomes in Seoul in 2013.