Concept Document

Cyber Security and Cybercrime Policies for African Diplomats

12-13 April 2018
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
**Background and justification**

The use of ICTs, and in particular the Internet, has become a matter of strategic importance for governments, businesses and citizens alike. However, the increased importance of Internet has also presented the global community with new challenges by creating new opportunities for perpetrating cybercrime on a global scale.

These last years, cyber security and cybercrime policies and strategies have come to the forefront of the international diplomatic and political agenda with daily reported news related to cyber conflicts, cyber espionage as well as the use of Internet to promote violent extremism and terrorism.

According to recent statistics, the African Continent has the fastest growth rates in Internet penetration, with digital connectivity that has almost tripled in the last 5 years. In this landscape, both governments and private sector entities in Africa have been experiencing an equally increasing trend of cyber-attacks, which reflects and sometimes amplifies what is registered on the global level.

Due to the cross-border nature of such threats, it has become a priority for each State to focus on how to develop policies and legislations that could allow an efficient and effective international cooperation, both in prevention and repression of criminal acts committed through the Internet.

**Expected Outcome**

The African Union Commission, in cooperation with the Council of Europe and Diplo Foundation, is organizing a capacity building workshop on Cyber Security and Cybercrime Policies for African Diplomats, on 11-12 April 2018 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The workshop will provide an overview of the main threats, challenges and opportunities of development for the African Continent in the field of cyber security and cybercrime. A specific focus will be dedicated to legal instruments for cooperation between States, such as, on the regional level, the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Data Protection (Malabo Convention) and, on the international level, the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime (Budapest Convention).

The workshop aims at building African diplomats’ capacities of negotiation on these issues, allowing to acquire a deeper understanding of the most important building elements that constitute a secure and resilient Cyberspace, such as: international laws in Cyberspace, jurisdictional issues on Internet, challenges related to international cybercrime investigations, the need for global cyber-treaties and related capacity building initiatives.

The Workshop will also provide an introduction to the impact of the use of digital technologies and Internet on the conduct of diplomacy (e-diplomacy), as well as an
overview of international and regional policy discussions and debates over cyber security and cybercrime issues.

Furthermore, Diplomats will be exposed to those contexts in which cyber security and cybercrime issues are being addressed in global, regional forums, such as the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS), the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (UNGGE), the Global Forum for Cyber Expertise (GFCE) and the Cybercrime Convention Committee (T-CY).

The workshop will be an opportunity for the participants and the lecturers to discuss specific Africa concerns, exchange best practices and familiarize with the ongoing international consultations to combat the misuse of ICTs/ Internet and its potential implication on the cross border cybercrime and international security.

**Target Audience**

The discussions will be of particular interest to government officials and Diplomats involved in Foreign policy development on cyber security and cybercrime.

The workshop will be concluded by discussions among Ambassadors and Senior Officials where experiences and concerns will be shared.

**Location**

The workshop will be held at the African Union Commission premises in Addis Ababa.

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