Diplomacy in the context of new technology: challenges, opportunities, and capacity building needs

Dr Katharina E Höne
katharinah@diplomacy.edu
@kathone

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“Most people in Congress don’t have a clue about what [tech] actually does ... that’s a very dangerous situation to be in.” Tech company leader quoted in the Wall Street Journal, April 12
LET’S SOLVE THIS PROBLEM BY USING THE BIG DATA NONE OF US HAVE THE SLIGHTEST IDEA WHAT TO DO WITH
Diplomacy and new technology

Roger’s diffusion of innovation bell curve

Gartner’s hype cycle
Diplomacy and new technology
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Topic
Tools
Environment
Diplomacy and new technology

Bridging the digital divide?
Leapfrogging stages of development?
Enhancing cybersecurity?
The 4th Industrial Revolution

1. steam power
2. electrification
3. digitisation
4. building on the third but going beyond it: fusion of technologies that is blurring the lines between the physical, digital, and biological spheres
Cybersecurity in context

Cybersecurity

Internet Stability
Privacy and Data Protection
Identification and Anonymity
Responsible Use of the Internet
Freedom of Information
Right to Access
Network Neutrality

Business & Economy

Human Rights
Capacity Building Recommendations

• Gaining knowledge about the context in which this takes place
• Readiness to assess, implement, and contribute to policy
• Fostering behavioural changes
Capacity Building Recommendations

Good capacity building

• goes far **beyond training**
• recognises the **complexity** of processes which it aims to influence and the need for multiple knowledges (topical, political, societal, traditional, etc.);
• provides **practical and immersion opportunities**
• requires a large component of **communication and follow-up** to foster the emergence of vibrant and self-sufficient networks.
Capacity Building Recommendations

Long-term programmes need to combine:

- **practice-oriented** learning activities adapted to the context;
- collaborative **policy research and immersion**;
- facilitation and support for **communities of practice**;
- **support for partner and beneficiary initiatives**, projects and interventions; and
- **inclusion of programme participants** as partners and co-designers in future capacity development.
Capacity Building Recommendations

Other specific features I

• **context-sensitive implementation** (adjusted to specific national, organisational, and professional needs);
• **multiple levels of delivery**, from individual to organisation, network and system;
Capacity Building Recommendations

Other specific features II

• support for international processes and preparations for important international summits and conferences;
• promotion of sector-wide coherence by involving various government departments and professionals; and
• a multistakeholder approach involving governments, civil society, business, academia, and other actors.