

## **IIC US Chapter Webinar: Cybersecurity at the United Nations**

On 9 June 2020, the US Chapter hosted a webinar on United Nations activities related to cybersecurity. US Chapter co-chair Andrew Haire started the discussion, and the panelists were Timo Koster, career diplomat at the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador-at-large for Security Policy and Cyber, and Veni Markovski, vice president for United Nations engagement at ICANN.

Ambassador Koster outlined six areas of cybersecurity focus of the Open Ended Working Group and the Group of Governmental Experts at the United Nations:

1. Identifying Existing and Potential Threats to Cybersecurity
2. International Law and the Applicability Thereof to Questions of Cybersecurity
3. Norms, Rules, and Principles for State Behavior in the Case of Cybersecurity
4. Confidence Building Measures that Can Apply to Cybersecurity Efforts
5. Capacity Building Efforts, Including Closing Connectivity Gaps Around the World
6. Promotion of Regular Institutional Dialogue on the Subject of Cybersecurity and Connectivity

There was a great deal of discussion about the merits, or lack thereof, of a new international treaty on cybersecurity, and Ambassador Koster made the case for relying on existing international law and building on progress already made.

Mr. Markovski described ICANN's role interfacing with the United Nations, indicating that it is the intention of the organization to educate, explain, and help the United Nations understand the operations of the World Wide Web and the Internet in general as it considers cybersecurity policy. He also described in detail the various cybersecurity working groups at the United Nations and who interfaces with each.

The audio recording of the webinar is available [here](#). The US Chapter is grateful to Ambassador Koster and Mr. Markovski for leading the very useful discussion.