United States Mission to the OSCE

Informal Working Group Established by PC Decision 1039: Revised Draft Set of CBMs

Dear Members of the 1039 Informal Working Group:

Please find attached our “best guess” revised draft set of Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) for your review and for discussion at the next meeting of the Informal Working Group Established by PC Decision 1039 on Tuesday, November 13, 2012 at 3:00pm in Segmentgalerie I.

Yours sincerely,

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OSCE Informal Working Group Established by PC Decision 1039
DRAFT – "Best Guess" Revised set of CBMs

1. Participating States will voluntarily provide their national views on some aspects of national and transnational ICT security. These may include, but are not necessarily limited to, views on doctrine; strategy; norms; lessons learned; real and potential threats; protective measures; concepts of operating in cyberspace.

2. Participating States will voluntarily share information on national organizations, programmes, or strategies relevant to their ICT security. This information will include the organization of the structures and a description of their mandate. Participating States will nominate a contact point to facilitate communications and dialogue on ICT-security matters.

3. Participating States will voluntarily provide contact details of existing official national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs), or equivalent official national structures, so that national experts can enter into a direct dialogue. Participating States will update contact information annually but in any event no later than thirty days after a change has occurred.

4. In order to reduce the risk of misunderstandings in the absence of agreed terminology, participating States will on a voluntary basis provide a list of national terminology related to ICT security accompanied by an explanation or definition of each term. It will be for each participating State to select those terms they deem most relevant for sharing.

5. Participating States will voluntarily exchange views on how existing OSCE mechanisms, such as the OSCE Communications Network, maintained by the OSCE Secretariat’s Conflict Prevention Centre, could be used to facilitate communications regarding incidents involving ICTs, (e.g. establishing protocols to ensure rapid communication at high levels of authority, to permit concerns to be raised at the national security level.)

6. Participating States will, at the level of national experts, meet at least three times each year, within the framework of the Security Committee and its Informal Working Group established by PC Decision 1039 to discuss information exchanged and explore appropriate development of this initial list of confidence building measures as well as others that might be candidates for future consideration.
Practical Considerations

The exchange of information described in the aforementioned CBMs shall occur annually on 30 April. In order to create synergies, the date of the annual exchanges should be synchronized with related initiatives participating States are pursuing in other fora, such as e.g. the UN submission date for views relating to the UN resolution entitled “Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security”.

The information exchanged should be compiled into one consolidated input. Submissions should be prepared in a manner that maximizes transparency and utility.

Information may be submitted in any of the official OSCE languages and it will be the responsibility of the receiving State to translate the information as necessary. However, participating States are encouraged to provide a complementary English translation if their input is submitted in another official OSCE language.

Information will be circulated to participating States using the OSCE Documents Distribution system.

Should a participating State wish to inquire about individual submissions, they are invited to do so during meetings of the appropriate OSCE body or by direct dialogue with the submitting State making use of established contact mechanisms, including the email contact list and the POLIS discussion forum.

The participating States will pursue the activities in points 4-5 through existing OSCE bodies and mechanisms.

The Transnational Threats Department will, upon request and within available resources, assist participating States in implementing the CBMs set out above.