PARIS CALL MEETING
INTERNATIONAL CYBERSECURITY FORUM
Pursuing our Efforts in a Challenging Global Context

POLICY BRIEF | JULY 2022
For trust and security in cyberspace
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Four years after its launch in 2018, the Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace is now gathering more than 1,200 supporters including 80 Governments, 700 companies and 350 organizations from the civil society, making it the world’s main multistakeholder platform to advance common norms and principles to defend a free, open and secure cyberspace. As the rapidly evolving international landscape and rising tensions around the world have major implications for the stability of the digital environment, the rationale for such a multistakeholder coalition is more relevant than ever. But how to keep up the momentum and achieve actual implementation of the Paris Call’s 9 principles in such a challenging global context?

At the International Cybersecurity Forum (FIC) on 7 June, in Lille (France), the Paris Peace Forum organized a stakeholders’ meeting to assess the impact of the Paris Call, review the main achievements of its community and discuss next steps in a challenging international landscape. This policy brief summarizes key takeaways from the event. All quotes, data and examples are from participants’ contributions during the meeting, and are anonymized in line with agreed norms for the discussion.
I - REVIEWING ACHIEVEMENTS
WHERE DO WE STAND AFTER 4 YEARS?

In the run-up to the fourth anniversary of the Paris Call for Trust and Security, supporters were asked to assess the impact of the initiative on the international landscape and to provide feedback on the work carried out through this platform.

The Paris Call allowed to put on the international agenda a number of cyber-related issues that were not fully considered until then. In particular it has introduced a sense of accountability for systemic actors in cyberspace, by applying a multi-stakeholder lens to a range of policy concerns that were traditionally addressed from a strict inter-state perspective. The Paris Call has played an important role in reconciling international policymaking with the initial multistakeholder structure of Internet governance. This new perspective is now reflected in multilateral discussions at the UN and in the practice of global actors.

Through the 6 working groups launched in 2020, the Paris Call has become a platform where supporters combine their capacities to develop concrete recommendations and tools for a more stable and secure
cyberspace. The outcomes of this joint community effort include:

- The development of recommendations for policymakers to design the next generation of cybersecurity dialogues at the UN by involving all relevant actors across the value chain and beyond the industry (see the report here);

- The identification of gaps in the implementation of cyber norms and the drafting of multi-stakeholder recommendations to overcome these (see the report here);

- A continuous awareness-raising effort on the norms and principles of responsible behavior in cyberspace towards actors from emerging countries in order to actively involve them in global cyber discussions and foster better representation of Global South actors in these debates;

- The design of a methodology to build an index aiming at evaluating the stability of cyberspace internationally (see the report here);

- The production of a matrix with practical, actionable steps stakeholder groups can undertake to improve the security of the ICT supply chain in the short to medium term (see the report here).

The Paris Call highlighted the emergence of a genuine collective ambition among actors in the cyber field. Supporters have continuously demonstrated their willingness to join forces to address cyber issues, based on the common understanding that current and future challenges require a comprehensive, inclusive and solution-oriented approach. The strength of the Paris Call lies first and foremost in the breadth, diversity and proactive engagement of its community of supporters.
II - KEEPING THE MOMENTUM

Announcements before the next edition of the Paris Peace Forum

The work is continuing in 2022 with the launch of three new workstreams to advance the debate on the non-proliferation of malicious software and practices intended to cause harms, South-South cooperation in cyber capacity building and good practices, and public-private partnerships in fighting ransomware threats (in partnership with the Counter-ransomware initiative).

Key takeaways and recommendations for the future

The participants discussed current gaps and future challenges for the initiative in light of a shifting geopolitical context, and made proposals for possible next steps. Further discussion in this regard will take place at the 5th edition of the Paris Peace Forum in November 2022. The takeover of the Paris Call’s informal secretariat by the Paris Peace Forum should also facilitate the implementation of proposals agreed by the community of supporters.
• The initiative and its outcomes should be given greater visibility, not only among third parties but first and foremost within its own community of supporters. The presentation of the community's activities should not be limited to the annual edition of the Paris Peace Forum in November, but could be done through more frequent communications — including a newsletter or dedicated events — throughout the year.

• Mechanisms should be put in place to further promote knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons learned among supporters of the Call. Revamping the initiative’s website or organizing regular stakeholder meetings could enhance exchanges within the community and make the most out of the Paris Call platform.

• The initiative could serve as an incubator for supporter-driven projects contributing to a better implementation of the Call’s 9 principles. A supporter with a good idea for a free, open and secure cyberspace should be able to use the Call as a collaborative platform to build partnerships at the design and implementation stages. A permanent focal point could also be established for this purpose.

• The Call could provide a framework for conducting major foresight exercises to reflect on upcoming threats and challenges in cyberspace over the next decade. In the cyber field, the pace of policymaking is often much slower than the pace of innovation. A reflection involving all relevant stakeholders could allow the formulation of norms aimed at anticipating future issues and risks rather than being reactive after they have occurred.
About the Paris Call

The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace, launched at the 2018 Paris Peace Forum, has become the reference multi-actor framework to promote core principles for the safety of cyberspace. It is now supported by more than 1200 actors, including 80 states, 700+ companies, and 380+ civil society organizations. It gathers actors all over the world around nine common principles to defend a free, open and secure cyberspace through enhanced multistakeholder collaboration.

About the Paris Peace Forum

In a world requiring more collective action, the Paris Peace Forum is a platform open to all seeking to develop coordination, rules, and capacities that answer global problems. Year-round support activities and an annual event in November help better organize our planet by convening the world, boosting projects, and incubating initiatives.