# PrepCom2

## Speech on Cybersecurity

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**Wednesday, 23 February, 10:00**

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of ITU. My remarks refer to the Political Chapeau, in particular to one of the Action Lines in the Annex, namely Action Line C5, "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs".

**[Message 1: The need to develop, deploy and promote policies, standards, technical guidelines and procedures for cybersecurity and spam]**

The Geneva Plan of Action recognized that confidence and security are among the main pillars of the Information Society. One of the action lines of the text of the Group of Friends of the Chair refers explicitly to "Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs."

The growth in the use of ICT infrastructure and our increased reliance on electronic communication networks has heightened concerns around the world on cybersecurity.

- There is growing recognition for the need to increase awareness and educate stakeholders (citizens, manufacturers, operators, businesses and governments).

- There is growing recognition at the national, regional and international level of the need to develop, deploy and promote policies, standards, technical guidelines and procedures to reduce threats to systems and networks and to protect the information stored and communicated using these systems.

- There is a need for stronger international collaboration, cooperation and partnerships covering standards development policies and legal frameworks concerning cybersecurity. Various initiatives exist throughout the world that will benefit from being brought together.

**[Message 2: ITU has been, and continues to be, active in cybersecurity for many years]**

ITU has been active in the security work for telecommunication and information technology for many years. ITU has been, and continues to be, an inclusive and dynamic international forum for discussion comprising governments, private industry and other standards developing organizations on an international level.

- Over the years, ITU has developed and published numerous security standards. Those security standards allow to secure not only the ICT infrastructure, but also the associated services and applications such as voice and multimedia applications. Current work focuses on security standards for so-called Next Generation Networks. ITU's standardization work also covers security and safety issues related to users such as spam and electromagnetic phenomena.

- ITU has also published studies on different security topics, ranging from network attacks to telebiometrics for authentication, from theft of identity to physical security for emergency telecommunications.

- The needs of developing countries are of major concerns for ITU. Particular attention needs to be given to the security issues that are being wrestled with by developing countries. ITU provides support to national e-government projects, including enhancing security and trust in the use of public networks.

- ITU has been increasing awareness among stakeholders through various cybersecurity workshops and symposia. Upcoming events include a Cybersecurity Symposium in Moscow on 29 March 2005 and an ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Cybersecurity on 28 June - 1 July. Both events are open to all stakeholders. The Cybersecurity Symposium in Moscow is a follow-up of the Cybersecurity Symposium held in October 2004 in Brazil. The ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Cybersecurity in June will examine the recommendations in the WSIS Plan of Action that relate to promoting global confidence and security in the use of ICTs; a specific part of the meeting will focus on follow-up to the ITU WSIS Thematic Meeting on Countering Spam held in July 2004. ITU is also in contact with leading companies to work on standards against spam, and to organize related technical workshops.


**[Conclusion]**

Cybersecurity will become a concern of almost everybody. ITU has a long-standing track record on security for ICTs. ITU is ready, in collaboration with all involved stakeholders and international expert bodies, to continue to play a key role to implement one of the goals of WSIS, namely to increase confidence and security in the use of ICTs.

Thank you for your kind attention.