



United Nations



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International
Telecommunication Union

Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society The Triple Challenge of Cybersecurity: Information, Citizens and Infrastructure

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Geneva, Switzerland

DECLARATION BY PARTICIPANTS

The Fourth Parliamentary Forum on Shaping the Information Society, held in Geneva on 18, 19 and 20 May 2011, highlighted that effective and harmonized legal frameworks are necessary to address the challenges of cybersecurity.

Confidence in cyberspace is vital for the development of the information society. As parliamentarians, we have the responsibility to enact legislation that promotes a safe and enabling environment for citizens, businesses and institutions to fully benefit from the Internet revolution, without constituting a threat to the peace and sovereignty of societies and in accordance with the principles of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Yet the Internet knows no borders. We recognize that cybercrime and the illicit use of ICT cannot be combated effectively without greater harmonization of our national legislation. The lack of harmonization creates an environment in which criminal activities can proliferate in relative impunity, and it is therefore urgent to act promptly.

While noting with satisfaction the regional and international initiatives to promote cybersecurity, we deplore the absence of an internationally agreed instrument that would provide a comprehensive framework for countries to coherently address cybersecurity issues in a coordinated manner.

We commend the organizers of the Fourth Parliamentary Forum for convening this meeting. We call upon the Global Centre for ICT in Parliament - a joint initiative of the IPU and the United Nations - to strengthen its engagement with parliaments on topics related to the Information Society. In particular, we request the Global Centre to create a working group of parliamentarians to explore ways to harmonize legislation on cybersecurity, and to report back on progress at the next Parliamentary Forum.