GLOBAL COMMISSION
ON THE STABILITY OF CYBERSPACE

CALL TO PROTECT
THE PUBLIC CORE OF THE INTERNET

New Delhi, November 2017

The Internet has changed the world, fueling political, economic, and social growth. More generally, cyberspace promotes communication, commerce, education, human rights and livelihood on every level. To continue this progress, we believe that the stability of cyberspace is essential for the good of humanity now and into the future.

As with all critical infrastructures, the technology that underpins the global Internet is imperfect. Technology can break, and the existence of flaws, vulnerabilities, malicious actors and the development of offensive capabilities create conditions of instability that put the benefits of cyberspace in jeopardy.

The Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace was established to enhance international peace, security, and stability by proposing norms and initiatives to guide responsible state and non-state behavior in cyberspace. A commitment to norms, together with the application of international law, can significantly enhance cyber stability.[1]

As a first step, recognizing the global reliance on cyberspace, the increasing dependence of other infrastructures on its reliability, and the potentially dramatic consequences of its disruption, the Commission urges all stakeholders to adhere to the following norm that sustains the general availability and integrity of the Internet.

NON-INTERFERENCE WITH THE PUBLIC CORE

Without prejudice to their rights and obligations, state and non-state actors should not conduct or knowingly allow activity that intentionally and substantially damages the general availability or integrity of the public core of the Internet, and therefore the stability of cyberspace.[2]

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1   Norms are voluntary, non-binding commitments. Over time they can crystallize into international law. Norms prescribe a positive or a negative obligation. The overall stability of the cyberspace is also served through capacity and confidence building efforts.

2   Elements of the public core include, inter alia, Internet routing, the domain name system, certificates and trust, and communications cables, which have been further defined in the *Definition of the Public Core, to which the norm applies*.

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