
Speech of H.E. Eng. Khaled Negm
Minister of Communications and Information Technology
@
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Ladies and Gentleman,

On behalf of the Egyptian government, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the kingdom of Netherlands for their efforts in organizing the GCCS 2015.

The Internet has turned to be one of the main pillars of socio-economic development. It becomes more and more a necessity for all stakeholders to ensure the stability, sustainability and security of the Internet.

Ladies and gentlemen,

As much as technology and innovation bring along various opportunities, they as well bring along many challenges; among those are Cyber security. Such challenges could not be defined as being local or limited to one or more regions. They are in fact Global in the sense of both their originality and effect. Cyber security, in specific, requires international and regional collaboration in a multi-stakeholder discipline to tackle the technical and policy dimensions and implications that evolve around.

The world is now facing a rise of violent extremism. There is a common link between all terrorist organizations, regardless of the terror group's name (Al-Qaeda, ISIL, Beit Almakdess, Boko Haram, Ansar al-Sharia, etc...). All of those organizations fall under the same 'mother Organization' umbrella: The Muslim brotherhood and they share the same radical intellectual framework and most of them nowadays use ICTs to disseminate these radical terrorist ideas, recruiting fighters and justifying their criminal actions. Recent incidents broadcasted on TVs were originally taped online by terrorist groups hosted on servers abroad. ICTs are becoming more and more at the heart of defeating these acts of terror.

President Abdel Fatah El Sisi condemned at several occasions the terrorist acts across the world noting that “terrorism is an international phenomenon that should be faced and terminated through joint international efforts”. “No single country or international entity can face or defeat online terrorism alone”. All players should come together in the right platform to exchange views and consolidate an understanding and hence an agreement, while striking a balance between basic human rights principles and national security.

It is the right of every person living on this planet to actually live in peace. It is as well the right of every person to use and benefit from the Internet. And it is OUR responsibility together to find the right balance and equation that would allow us all to live in peace and maximize the benefits of the World Wide Web.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is evident that we all do encourage innovation and we must continue to do so. Any changes in policies or regulations should be introduced to facilitate this ongoing and developing process, while taking care of the growing global concerns about cyber security.

The Egyptian government has exerted the effort to undertake all necessary actions that could build confidence and security in the use of ICTs and combat any emerging threats from within. In 2009, Egypt established its Egyptian Computer Emergency Response

Team (EG-CERT). On the legislative level, Egypt has introduced the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in 2002; the Telecommunication Regulation Law (2003); and the e-Signature Law (2004), and we are just done with our new cyber crime law.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The world has been shocked by, and ever since preoccupied, with the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo back in January. The world should equally be seriously concerned with terrorist attacks wherever they may take place. We in Egypt are combating terrorism especially in the Sinai and are determined to do so until we prevail.

We do recognize the vast development of innovation and technology. Nevertheless, we do recognize as well that Extremists are not far from this innovation. It is our responsibility together to combat such shocking incidents and avail more Safe Internet for our societies especially our youth.

Therefore, the Egyptian government – on the highest level- is now examining the possibility of starting an International dialogue aiming at Combating Terrorism Online and Securing Cyberspace. I look around and see that this conference is very relevant to discuss together and take decisive action on the way forward, and I would like to share with you some key pillars that our initiative leans upon:

1. To pave the way to internationally agreed upon principles on how to coordinate and cooperate with the relevant stakeholders in addressing new threats when needed.
2. To raise the level of confidence and security in the use of ICTs and take necessary actions to fight its abuses, while promoting mutual understanding between governments and other stakeholders on how to tackle this issue
3. To discuss protection of infrastructure and networks that might raise security challenges of transnational threats faced by countries

4. To prevent the occurrence of any online accident by government authorities at the national, sub-national and regional levels (including the establishment of national Computer Incident response teams), and through collaboration of the private sector

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The challenges we are facing today oblige us all to extend our hands to one another and look at our partners along the road. We emphasize the need to engage in a healthy dialogue with our partners from the private sector & civil society – in both developing and developed countries- to reach an optimum modality through which we can work together on combating terrorism online. Bomb making, radical believes of terrorists & extremists are widely spreading across the social media, and our children are vastly affected and killed. The thin line between freedoms online and saving the souls of our nations across the globe is something that should be well examined and discussed.

I believe that our meeting will provide positive and constructive input from all stakeholders. I wish you all success, and would like, once again, to thank the organizers and the warm welcome.

Thank you.