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KASPERSKY SUBMISSION TO THE GLOBAL DIGITAL COMPACT (APRIL 2023)

Kaspersky firmly welcomes efforts by the UN Secretary General to promote the concept of global digital commons and considers the Global Digital Compact initiative to be an important step in fostering digitalization worldwide.

As information and communications technologies play an increasingly important role in the daily lives of billions of people, they bring great benefits. Unfortunately, they also pose growing risks to individuals. And one of the best ways to mitigate these risks is to increase the level of cybersecurity awareness among users throughout the world, with particular attention paid to educating women and children, as they are usually the ones facing greater threats on the Internet.

As a leading provider of cybersecurity solutions and services, Kaspersky's most important mission is to protect users and companies from cyberthreats of any origin. We believe that building cybersecurity is vital in ensuring safe access to digital commons. That is why, for more than 20 years, we have been cooperating with universities, government authorities and non-government expert organizations in the area of cybersecurity education.

Kaspersky's contribution to the Global Digital Compact is based on its vast experience and expertise in promoting cybersecurity literacy worldwide, and includes projects involving multilateral cooperation. Our ultimate goal is to provide global access to high-quality IT and cybersecurity courses to all interested individuals and organizations.

Focus: Digital Commons as a global public good

Core Principles for Governments, International Organizations, Businesses Universities and Other Relevant Stakeholders

1. Raising the Level of Cybersecurity Literacy: While access to information technology provides plenty of opportunities, it also presents substantial threats which are usually hidden from unprepared users. In this regard, a high-quality affordable cybersecurity awareness program is essential, as it can help people

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- worldwide enjoy the digital realm with an awareness of its dangers, enabling them to avoid the risks posed by the Internet.
- 2. **Promoting Digital Inclusivity**: Everyone, regardless of their gender, age, and ethnicity, should be able to participate and benefit from the digital economy. Consequently, both governmental and non-governmental (universities, businesses etc.) stakeholders should aim their cyber capacity building initiatives to bridge the digital gap and provide equal opportunities in cyberspace for all.
- 3. **Building a Skilled Workforce**: Efficient cybersecurity requires thousands of highly qualified professionals. As a result, growing investments are needed in comprehensive training programs in cybersecurity, ethical hacking and digital forensics. The focus should be on state-supported educational initiatives especially in developing countries in order to bridge the dangerous gap between the level of digitalization and the number of skilled cybersecurity professionals in the market.
- 4. **Cyber Hygiene for Everyone**: As digital technologies constitute an important part of everyday life, cyber skills become essential not just for IT specialists, but for everybody. In this regard, cybersecurity awareness should be an integral part of school and university education as well as at work with training courses. Involvement in developing and promoting educational programs should be an intrinsic component of the social responsibility of ICT vendors and technological leaders.
- 5. **Enhancing International Cooperation**: While providing access to the digital world, governments as well as non-state actors (including ICT vendors) should bear in mind importance of cybersecurity. And, as cyberthreats are of global nature, wide international cooperation under an established framework is required that will involve all interested parties, including private sector.
- 6. **Fostering Public-Private Partnerships**: Cooperation between the public and private sectors will allow for the pooling of resources, expertise, and technology to strengthen cyber capacity and counter cyber threats.

Key Actions

Cybersecurity education as well as raising public awareness of basic rules of staying safe online should be a priority for every organization that deals with the creation of a digital world. In order to reach these objectives, Kaspersky is putting great deal of effort into developing the following projects:

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- 1. <u>Cyber Capacity Building Program</u>. This initiative is aimed at the public sector, universities as well as small and medium businesses in order to help them develop mechanisms and skills for security assessments of the ICT products they use.
- 2. **Kaspersky Academy**. This initiative to improve the quality of cybersecurity-related education was launched more than a decade ago and unites universities from nearly 70 countries from different parts of the world. A large number of projects, such as competitions and cybersecurity student communities, target students and teachers globally with no age restriction. Particular attention in the upcoming years will be paid towards cooperation with developing countries in Asia and Africa.
- 3. Cyber Resilience Project for kids. This initiative was launched under the umbrella of the Kaspersky Academy on March 20, 2023, in Singapore. The goal of this project is to promote a culture of holistic cyber resilience in and through education, thus empowering teachers and students to navigate the digital world safely and responsibly. Another notable initiative, which is oriented to kids, is the publication of "Midori Kuma and a Very Special Race" Book. Its aim is to inform children about online safety at a level suitable for them. The book is available in six languages: Arabic, English, German, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.
- 4. <u>Coalition Against Stalkerware</u>. Back in 2019, Kaspersky was one of the founding members of this coalition which was created as a response to a growing number of individuals affected by digital stalking. The initiative unites both organizations that work to combat domestic violence and the IT-security community.

Useful Resources

- Kaspersky's Sustainability Report for 2021 and the first half of 2022
- Kaspersky.Academy
- Coalition Against Stalkerware