

# Keynote: Reflections on Emerging Cyber Threats and International Cooperative Responses

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**G**ROWING dependence on information and communication technology has made a secure cyberspace absolutely essential for the functioning of modern countries and the world economy. The Internet has also become a key instrument for terrorists and other criminals and is used for a variety of purposes such as fraud; child sexual exploitation; identity and data theft; identifying, recruiting and training new members of a terrorist group; collecting and transferring funds; organizing terrorist acts; and inciting terrorist violence. Experts are alarmed by the continuous growth and annual cost of dealing with cybercrime and by the potential threat of the use of computer systems and the Internet as weapons for cyber-attacks by terrorists. International and regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) have a key role in combating this threat. Building on previous OSCE efforts, notably in the area of combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, the Organization has started to explore a possible role in promoting a comprehensive approach to enhancing cyber security. Such a comprehensive approach to enhancing cyber security, involving and utilizing the strengths of all stakeholders from the public as well as the private sector, may be the best viable option for national authorities and the international community in order to ensure long-term and sustainable cyber security. Drawing on the aforementioned issues, this address will explore the potential role for regional organizations and specifically the OSCE in promoting such a comprehensive approach and will provide concrete policy options for decision makers.