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Institution: United Nations Security Council

Topic: Assessing and Mitigating the Dangers of Cyberattacks

“The Internet is the first thing that humanity has built that humanity doesn't understand, the largest experiment in anarchy that we have ever had”

* Eric Schmidt, Google

Ethiopia is a country situated in North Eastern Africa, home to about 128 million inhabitants and one of the fastest growing economies in Africa.. Ethiopia recognises the need to address cyber-threats and mitigate the dangers posed by cyber-attacks. Ranking just 125th in the Global Innovation Index (2023), our nation stands committed to safeguarding digital infrastructure and promoting international cooperation to combat cyber threats and breaches, effectively and collectively.

A data analysis study revealed that in 2023, Ethiopia experienced approximately 18,000 attacks and 30,000 instances of ransomware. These attacks have not only disrupted services, but have also posed a significant threat to the economic stability of the nation. Ethiopia has foiled over 4,550 cyberattacks in the first six months of the 2023/2024 fiscal year. Nonetheless, several steps are actively being taken and implemented:

1. Establishment of the Information Network Security Agency to coordinate cybersecurity efforts.
2. Introduction of Ethiopia's first digital transformation strategy, Digital Ethiopia 2025 to aid in the improvement of digital infrastructure.
3. Cybersecurity awareness programs and schemes to empower businesses and citizens.

In order to combat the adversities of cyberattacks effectively, Ethiopia proposes the following solutions:

1. Investment in cybersecurity research and development to stay abreast of threats:
2. Many countries in today's world have no standardised legal framework to tackle cyberattacks at both institutional and national levels. Research in this field must involve initiatives to define a national research and development agenda to produce new technologies and develop solutions.
3. Development of this field may also help identify vulnerabilities in systems and software. Data collected could be used to patch these vulnerabilities and prevent further attacks.
4. Promoting essential cybersecurity awareness programs and education initiatives to foster a cyber resilient society:

By providing people with the knowledge of identifying and preventing cyberattacks, organisations can make a significant impact on the number of people falling victim to such attacks. Similar programs for children must be held to avoid phishing, cyberbullying, identity thefts and data breaches.

1. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) to identify and prevent cyberattacks in real time:

AI has the capability and power to recognise and mitigate cyberattacks on a scale unmatched by humans. The use of such power in an ethical way can benefit thousands who fall victim to cyberattacks and millions who are vulnerable to them.

To sum up, a cyber secure space in today's world is invaluable towards protecting the privacy of people and citizens alike. However, achieving this goal is no walk in the park. Ethiopia remains committed to working together with fellow delegates to develop comprehensive strategies and solutions to provide a safe online space for everyone and mitigate the dangers posed by cyberattacks.

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