Global Cybersecurity Forum

**2022**

RIYADH - SAUDI ARABIA

# Global Cybersecurity Forum

## Rethinking the Global Cyber Order

1-2 February 2022

**General Overview**

## GCF 2022: The Coming Edition

In February 2022, we look forward to once again hosting the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) in person in Riyadh, under the theme: **Rethinking the Global Cyber Order**. This theme conveys the intent of this year's event to center on critical consideration of the truly global, multi-actor, and complex multi-sector nature of cyberspace, including the opportunities and challenges within. The program content is weighted toward a central focus on the root challenge in cybersecurity – the absence of a shared understanding of appropriate behavior and activities in the cyber domain in which states, businesses, and ill-intentioned actors all interact.

Discussions and sessions, which have been designed to be maximally interactive and dynamic, will engage prominent speakers and audience members directly as participants, and cover a range of sub-themes that include:

- Understanding the evolving international order in cyberspace;
- Mapping the current state and future of cybersecurity threats and imagining the impact of technologies of the future;
- Leveraging the market forces, incentives, and economic governance that shape cyberspace;
- Examining the human dimensions of cybersecurity in the future of work;
- Bridging global cyber divides and strengthening human-centric cybersecurity.

Speakers and participants will be drawn from key policy making positions, C-suite level in private cybersecurity organizations and key sectors involved in the cyber domain. They will include senior diplomats working to create global change through cyber diplomacy, and feature international organizations, academic and NGO voices spanning a range of perspectives and experiences.

## Engagement at the GCF

The GCF must bring together the diverse talents, skillsets, and knowledge of a range of individuals and organizations around the world to deliver on its ambition to contribute to the development of a more stable and resilient shared global cyberspace. Thus, the design of the GCF's event program and engagement model are focused on offering unique value to participants. For those in attendance, the promise of the GCF is that it will provide:

- **Access to compelling thought leadership at the frontier**, pushing the boundaries of new knowledge, insight, or perspectives across a diverse array of most critical topics of the moment
- **Opportunities to contribute to shaping the future of cyberspace**, steering the trajectory of the global cyberspace agenda
- **Opportunities to meet and interact with influential individuals & decision makers across the public and private sector**, building personal relationships that extend beyond formal interaction

As we look to the future editions of the GCF, we warmly welcome your participation and look forward to expanding dialogue and driving action together to create a better cyberspace for all.

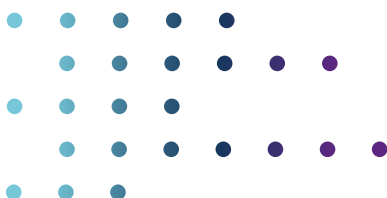## Key Facts

### WHEN
1-2 February, 2022

### WHERE
King Abdul Aziz International Conference Center, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

### WHO
High Level Government Officials, C-Suite executives, International Organizations, Expert Communities, NGOs and Academia.

## GCF 2020: The Starting Point

In 2020, during the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's G20 Presidency, the Global Cybersecurity Forum (GCF) was launched as an action-oriented global platform aiming to contribute to a more resilient and better cyberspace for all. Recognizing the importance of raising cybersecurity resilience at a global level—and the imperative for international collaboration among diverse stakeholders and nations to accomplish this goal—the GCF was established to create a space for the world's cybersecurity stakeholders to collaborate and, more importantly, act to benefit people of all nations and cultures. Under the patronage of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, the GCF aims to accelerate the global cybersecurity dialogue, promote a balanced vision for cybersecurity, showcase innovation, and promote investment and partnerships across sectors.



The inaugural GCF, held in February of 2020, featured industry leaders, policy makers and former heads of state, prominent academics and thought leaders, and NGO representatives. The event attracted nearly 4,000 participants from over 50 countries. The 56 sessions included in the program sparked dialogue on core challenges in the cybersecurity landscape. In particular, the inaugural GCF served as the launching point for two global initiatives under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. The first is dedicated to child protection in cyberspace, and the second to women's empowerment in cybersecurity.

## GCF 2021: Expanding and Adapting in a Virtual World

By early 2021, the urgency of advancing dialogue and action on key cybersecurity challenges shared globally had become even greater. The measures taken to counter the COVID-19 pandemic hastened a long-pending technological transformation, and individuals around the globe became digitally connected like never before. Yet the incredible global uptake of networked technologies contributed to a dramatically expanded attack surface in cyberspace. The expansion of this surface, in tandem with a range of dynamics, provided new opportunity for cyber threats and attacks to proliferate.

The GCF also adapted to the virtual world. In April 2021, the GCF hosted a first Virtual Dialogue entitled *Cybersecurity: What Now, What Next?* This event featured 26 speakers from across the globe, who highlighted not only the challenges, but also the opportunities of this unique moment in time. The GCF Virtual Platform attracted over 250,000 individuals from more than 100 countries who followed the live broadcast on multiple channels. Across the multi-disciplinary sessions, speakers highlighted series of key themes that the global cybersecurity community will need to address in moving toward a more resilient global future.



### Key themes addressed by the Virtual Dialogue

- Economic Incentives
- Talent
- Investment
- Trust and Zero Trust
- International Collaboration and Cyber Diplomacy
- Cyber Conflict Readiness
- Integrated Awareness
- Collective Defense Culture
- Cyber Resilience
- Leadership

## GCF, beyond 2022: The Way Forward

The GCF will continue its intentional evolution in the coming years, as it grows into an action and initiative oriented global institution that integrates the global cybersecurity community and drives forward the agenda on cyberspace. Through annual events, continuous research, design and launch of new initiatives, and more, the GCF aims to catalyze socioeconomic change, push the knowledge boundaries on core cybersecurity topics, and build the foundations for global cooperation on key challenges and opportunities in cyberspace.

At a time in which cyberspace is characterized by instability and uncertainty and fraught with systemic risk, the need for all actors in the cyber domain to generate mutually beneficial solutions to shared problems has never been greater. The GCF is and will be a place, resource, and community in which all actors can engage to drive such action forward.

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