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Statement

4th Meeting,

Global Mechanism on developments in the field of ICTs in the
context of international security and advancing responsible State
behaviour in the use of ICTs

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Youth Publications and Socioeconomic Forum

DMUN Foundation

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AS DELIVERED

Thank you Madam Chair.

My name is Edward Iancu. I take the floor on behalf of the Youth Publications and Socioeconomic Forum, a subsidiary programme of the DMUN Foundation.

The threats discussed this week demonstrate that ICT security depends on technologies and institutions. It is important to note they are also reliant on human capacity as well. In that regard, I would like to emphasize one central message: invest in people, especially in young people.

Young people are the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, but we are already active participants in the digital ecosystem. We are students, developers, researchers, and innovators. The question, then, is how we should make that investment.

I would like to briefly share preliminary findings from a study I was a part of involving more than 700 secondary school students at a New York City public high school with specialized academic majors. Because students select their disciplines, we could compare perceptions of artificial intelligence among a diverse group of STEM-oriented and non-STEM-oriented students.

We observed that students in non-STEM disciplines expressed significantly greater concern about AI-related job displacement than their STEM peers. This gap persisted even after accounting for self-reported AI-use and skill. In other words, more frequent and more proficient use of AI did not necessarily translate into greater confidence about its broader consequences.

This finding could suggest a broader lesson for cyber capacity-building: mere exposure to technology does not necessarily create understanding, preparedness, or, most importantly, resilience.

We want to be precise about what this data does and does not show. The study examined attitudes toward AI and employment, not cybersecurity knowledge or threat recognition.

Nevertheless, the findings offer a takeaway relevant to this discussion: access to an emerging technology and familiarity with it should not be treated as evidence that young people understand its broader consequences or feel prepared to address them.

As AI-enabled capabilities become increasingly relevant to ICT security, young people should be resilient. The youth should be equipped to use these technologies responsibly and also be equipped to recognize AI-enabled threats.

Concretely, we ask that youth-serving organizations and youth capacity-building practitioners be recognized as important stakeholders set out for the Global Mechanism. Furthermore, we demand Member States to nominate qualified youth capacity-building practitioners to the DTGs.

Excellencies, We must invest in technology, but we must also remember the importance of an investment in people. And that investment must include young people.

Thank you.