

GC3B Open Call for Sessions

About the GC3B

In an increasingly connected world that relies heavily on technology, and where cyber threats continue to expand in both number and complexity, the need for **robust cyber capacity** that supports broader sustainable development goals has never been greater. International collaboration and collective investments in resources, knowledge and skills are key to building **free, resilient and sustainable digital societies** across continents, where no country is left behind in their digital transition.

To elevate cyber capacity building discussions onto the global governance and development agendas, the second edition of the Global Conference on Cyber Capacity Building (GC3B) will take place on **14-15 May 2025, in Geneva, Switzerland**. The GC3B will be hosted by the Government of Switzerland, with the support of the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). The GC3B 2025 aims to drive actions in line with the [Accra Call](#), the outcome document of the GC3B 2023 which consists of a set of voluntary actions that promote cyber capacity building and support broader sustainable development goals.

Participants will convene to coordinate strategies, share best practices, and mobilize resources to support countries in strengthening their digital foundations and pursue the objectives of the Accra Call through their own internal processes and mandates. The GC3B will also provide a venue for taking stock of the Accra Call pledges and (through its subsequent editions) will periodically bring stakeholders together to assess progress and set the path forward.

By bringing together stakeholders from different communities, disciplines and functions, the GC3B aims to create an opportunity for meaningful and structured dialogue to:

- **Increase awareness and expand knowledge** of existing good practices, tools, methods, and lessons for improving cyber capacity building and cyber resilience for development.
- **Generate new insights** and out-of-the-box thinking for cyber capacity building in ways that complement and challenge traditional approaches.
- **Bring together communities and stakeholders** engaged in cyber capacity building and development cooperation to bridge siloed approaches, accelerate expertise-sharing, and foster stronger cooperation locally, regionally and globally.
- **Drive collective action** on existing commitments, solutions, and plans or propose new possible solutions that strengthen cyber resilience.

Timeline

- Launch of the Open Call: **18 November 2024**
- **Deadline for submissions:** 18:00 GMT on **17 January 2025**
- Submitted proposals will be reviewed and selected by the conference organizers based on the criteria elaborated in the section “Evaluation & Selection Criteria”.
- **Selection results:** Successful organizations will be informed by **17 February 2025**.

- **Session development:** From **1 March** to **15 March**, the GC3B Secretariat will organize onboarding for successful organizations (i.e., presentation of the conference, preparation process, formulation of the session teams, and timeline for session planning). Please, read [here](#) to learn more about the role of the session leads.

About the GC3B Program Open Call

The conference program includes space for multiple workshops selected through the call for proposals. Such workshops will provide an opportunity for deep-dive discussions of experts with identified lessons and tested tools towards getting **concrete outputs for the GC3B and the Accra Call**. The GC3B Secretariat will assess the submitted applications and select the workshops based on the open call's criteria.

The proposals should follow a workshop format used for expert-level, in-depth, and highly interactive discussions. Workshops are focused on sharing knowledge and ideas around a compelling issue or challenge, identifying possible solutions, and fostering collaboration. For example, it can include brief key insight or impulse-giving remarks by a few discussion leaders, followed by smaller discussion groups that tackle a specific question with a view to identifying catalysts for change. This format serves well for the community building and catalyzing action session objectives. Each workshop should be **around 75 minutes** long. Specific duration and layout of each session may be adjusted based on the conference venue rooms and overall conference program.

The submitting organization agrees that, if successful in its application, it will take on the responsibility of a Session Lead. As Session Lead, it will manage the formulation of the session, including the prioritization, selection, and invitation of suitable speakers, refinement of session descriptions, leading on planning and work management of the session team in alignment with the overall conference objectives and the quality control of the GC3B program team. Please, read [here](#) to learn more about the role of the Session Leads. Please note that you can submit multiple proposals.

Evaluation & Selection Criteria

All interested organizations should submit their proposals under one of the main pillars of the conference (see below). The program is organized in three pillars driven by the need among the relevant communities to **rethink, evolve and anticipate** adaptation across the existing approaches in international cooperation and partnerships for cyber resilience and capacity building. The experience, expertise, and lessons of developing countries lies at the core of this process as they shall define the discussions in line with their perspectives, contexts, and needs. Please note that session proposals promoting commercial products and services will be screened out.

The selection process will be a competitive one, in which all proposals are assessed based on the following criteria:

1. **Relevance (50/100):** Is the proposal timely and pertinent for the community and does it address an important issue, need or challenge for cyber resilient development? Does it fit with the thematic focus of the conference? Does it contribute towards the achievement of specific actions and commitments in the [Accra Call](#)?

2. **Design (30/100):** Does the proposal have a clear ambition and realistic approach towards its implementation (e.g., adequate speakers, objectives, etc.)? Does the proposal have a deliberate design that puts the participants' experience at the center?
3. **Diversity (20/100):** Does the proposal include diverse voices that bring insights and perspectives from different operational and geographic contexts, stakeholders, and communities?

Pillars of the GC3B 2025

RETHINK



Cyber in and for sustainable development

How to integrate cybersecurity across international cooperation and partnerships to ensure protection of digital investments and to support sustainable development?

I. Cyber in and for sustainable development

- This pillar will reflect on the current efforts in mainstreaming cyber resilience and cyber capacity building across international and national development agendas. It will highlight ways to accelerate the systematic connection of different stakeholders' efforts, expertise, and resources engaged in cyber capacity building, digital development, and international cooperation more broadly.
- In relation to the [Accra Call](#), it combines the key topics of the 1st and 4th action categories (*Strengthen the role of cyber resilience as an enabler for sustainable development; Unlock financial resources and implementation modalities*).

EVOLVE



Next generation cyber capacity building

How should cyber capacity building approaches and tools evolve further to be more demand-driven, improve effectiveness, promote inclusivity, and reinforce locally sustained change?

II. Next generation cyber capacity building

- This pillar will focus on how the cyber capacity building ecosystem and approaches can pivot to a more mature phase after more than a decade of growth. This entails how to professionalize further the cyber capacity building community of practice, and fast-track good practices, approaches, and solutions to improve further the efficacy and sustainability of efforts in enhancing developing countries' cyber resilience and capacities.
- In relation to the [Accra Call](#), it combines the key topics of the 2nd and 3rd action categories (*Advance demand-driven, effective, and sustainable cyber capacity building; Foster stronger partnerships and better coordination*).

ANTICIPATE



New tech frontiers for cyber capacity building

How can new and emerging technologies impact cyber resilience, and how can related capacity needs, skills' demands, and security risks be anticipated and addressed through cyber capacity building?

III. New tech frontiers for cyber capacity building

- This pillar aims to spark a discussion about the need to anticipate and adapt the field of cyber capacity building to a new context created by emerging technologies in ways that can enhance cyber resilience across development programs and cyber capacity building initiatives. It will consider the cybersecurity implications of new and emerging technologies, how they can be harnessed to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of cyber capacity building as well as how to address the complexities they bring to the digital ecosystem in terms of additional capacity needs, skills demands, and security risks.
- Concerning the [Accra Call](#), this theme can be considered as a *cross-cutting reflection* on the potential implications of new and emerging technologies across all action categories.

Please submit your proposal by filling in [this form](#). In case you have questions or need assistance, please email us at: contact@gc3b.org.